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THURSDAY, DECEMBER 16TH, 2010

'WE'VE DONE IT!

...Villagers step out all the way from the Vale to Afghanistan to help heroes on the frontline!'

ABOVE: St Mary Church children hold the Welsh and Afghanistan flags to celebrate reaching their target. Photograph by Mandy Thomas at www.mandythomasphotography.co.uk (See more photographs on page 3).

REPORT by PHILIP IRWIN

THERE were cheers and celebrations – and glasses raised high – when for the residents of St Mary Church, it was mission accomplished last Saturday afternoon.

The community had, perhaps a little rashly, set itself the challenge of walking the equivalent distance from the Vale village to Helmand Province in Afghanistan, to raise cash for Help for Heroes – a total of 3,882 miles.

A calculation based on the residents averaging four miles per hour on the treadmill gave a finishing date of Wednesday, December 15, but last week it became apparent that they had been quicker (4.8 mph average) and it dawned on them that they would finish on Friday evening – during the village carol concert!

Tim McIlveen, who thought of the idea in the first place, told The GEM: "We decided to aim for Kandahar instead, which meant walking an extra 76 miles.

"However, it meant that we finished at 2pm on Saturday!"

So it was that Melanie O'Neill, dressed as the Good Fairy, stepped on to the treadmill and ran the last stretch, finishing as the church bells tolled 2pm.

That was the trigger for a party atmosphere – despite the cold weather, and the villagers were joined by Vale MP Alun Cairns.

As they raised their glasses, the villagers were unanimous that the challenge had been a huge boost for community spirit in St Mary Church, giving residents who rarely met, a chance to get together and make friends.

It was also a tribute to the spirit of charitable giving in the Vale.

Local resident Caroline McKenzie said: *"The coverage in The GEM has brought people out to support us.*

"I was here one afternoon when a woman arrived, saying that she had read about it in The GEM, and handed over £20!"

In the village, Geoff Simpson stepped forward to organise the rota, and he soon found that groups from outside the village were offering to help. Some of the difficult through-the-night shifts were filled by personnel from MoD St Athan, while various local groups also came forward.

The fundraising is to continue, and the villagers are planning a celebratory black tie dinner and dance at The Bear in Cowbridge, on December 21, thanks to support from Julian Hitchcock.

Tim McIlveen's wife, Jane, said: "There will be a raffle and auction on that evening, and we have had some incredibly generous donations for the auction.

"British Airways has donated a pair of tickets for a flight to Vienna; we have a donation of Take That concert tickets, and also a week in a villa in the Greek Islands – among many others!"

Amid the celebration, it doesn't do to lose sight of the reason for this fundraising effort. Tim, who runs Fontygary Leisure Centre, explained: "There are a number of injured soldiers in St Athan being given physio and rehab teatment.

"The pool at St Athan was out of commission, so the soldiers came to Fontygary to use our pool.

"To see them coping with terrible injuries and rebuilding their lives was all the motivation anyone in St Mary Church needed!"

Anyone interested in supporting the appeal, or who would like tickets for the black tie dinner, dance and auction, should contact Tim or Jane on 01446 775095.

Torchlit procession to castle

THERE will be a torchlight procession (with a donkey) for the whole family, leaving the cattle market in Cowbridge, at 6.30pm on Wednesday, December 22.

Organised by Churches Together in Cowbridge and District, the procession will make its way to St Quentin's Castle, where there will be carols and readings.

Battle for the magistrates court in Vale appears lost

THE Vale of Glamorgan Magistrates Court is to be closed, the Ministry of Justice has decided.

The court which is in Thompson Street, Barry, was first under threat four years ago when an estate review was carried out.

At that time it escaped closure, but this week the axe fell.

It means that people in the Vale will have to travel to Cardiff or Bridgend to attend hearings.

Politicians, who have fought a campaign to keep the court open since closure was proposed in a June consultation paper, expressed not only anger that local justice was being taken out of the Vale, but dismay that another facility was being lost to the area.

Local Conservative MP Alun Cairns pledged to meet the relevant Minister Jonathan Djanogly to make a final plea for its future.

The Vale's Labour AM Jane Hutt labelled the news "a devastating blow".

Dr Ian Johnson, Plaid's Assembly candidate, pointed out: "We used to have a court in Cowbridge, and now we are left without a single court in the whole Vale."

Mr Djanogly claims that court closures in Wales and England, along with a £22million investment, will produce a more efficient system.

For the full story, please turn to page 5.

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Questions to council

WHEN will the Vale Council act in Cowbridge and confirm that the British Legion Club site in the main car park will be removed?

When will the cattle market be cleared up and resurfaced?

When will the vacated lower school site be cleared?

When will the litter in Aberthin Road and new school area be cleared?

When will the grounds of Old Hall be cleared of rubbish from trees?

Brian Swain, Cowbridge

Our thanks to the volunteers at 'Meals on Wheels'

I AM writing to express my thanks to all the volunteers who give up their free time to deliver meals to the elderly in and around the Cowbridge and Llantwit Major district.

I would also like to take this opportunity to wish them all a very happy Christmas and prosperous New Year.

Again, many thanks for your dedication – you are all very much appreciated by me, local community services and our clients.

Jan Williams
(Meals on Wheels co-ordinator, Cowbridge)

'No budget, no plan for the sports field'

I FEEL honoured that councillors Jeff James and Gordon Kemp could spare a few brief moments from their relentless quest to provide a sports field for Rhoose Point to reply to my questions.

Perhaps they could elaborate on their letter further: "*The sports field was due to be provided by Cofton …*".

Would this be the 2008 deal whereby Cofton got to build houses on the employment land?

If it is, then a mere seven years elapsed between building stopping on Rhoose Point in 2001 and the council clinching the deal. Rome was not built in a day!

Our relentless, if not dynamic duo, have also missed the point about the changing room money. It is money towards a *changing room*, not to be spent on fixing other things.

Once that money is gone on a CCTV survey of the drains or consultant fees or lawyers, it shows that:

1. The council has no budget or timescale to deliver a sports field. That means there is no credible plan. The priority goes from 'Must Be Done' to 'Would Be Nice', which in this world means never.

2. The protection given by the legally-binding s106 agreement to the undeveloped fields around the Western Quarry, between Rhoose Point and Fontygary Caravan Park is lost.

Cofton-By-Another-Name want this for another housing estate, and on past form, they will get what they want.

Finally, making developers pay towards public art is council policy. Spending that money is very much 'Jeff and Gordon's plan'.

Andrew Bailey, Rhoose

Plea for lost hearing aid

MY friend lost her hearing aid in Llantwit Major, at the switching on of the Christmas lights.

If, by some miracle, anyone has found it, please would they ring me on 01446 796849, or 07804 624795?

Annie Paine, Llantwit Major

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THE COLUMN YOU WRITE

Readers' Letters

We reserve the right to edit all letters. We do NOT accept anonymous mail. Letters and emails MUST include full address and a contact telephone number. An email address alone is not sufficient. We will (*in certain circumstances*), protect a writer's identity, if requested. Please keep your letters BRIEF and address them to: The Editor, Glamorgan GEM Ltd, Graig House, 53 Eastgate, Cowbridge CF71 7EL.

'Laws that apply only to Wales should be made in Wales'

ON March 3 next year, there'll be a referendum to decide if Wales deserves a stronger voice.

Over the last decade, the Assembly has gradually grown in stature and confidence. But the system for making laws that affect Wales is slow and complicated.

A Yes vote will help take Wales forward by speeding up the system of decision-making to allow Assembly Members to get on with the job.

For example, it has taken three years to get permission from London to ensure that all new homes are equipped with fire sprinklers to stop needless deaths in house fires.

Even though our democratically-elected Assembly had supported the proposal, it first had to be approved by civil servants, members of the House of Lords and MPs before it could become law.

Time and money is being wasted jumping through needless hoops.

Even though we are from different parties, we have come together to stand united behind a simple principle – ***laws that only apply in Wales should be made in Wales.***

That's what the referendum on March 3 is about and we need your help to get a Yes vote. Please support the cross-party campaign by looking online at *www.yesforwales.com* and sign up to help

Jane Hutt AM (Labour),
Chris Franks AM (Plaid Cymru)
Andrew R T Davies AM (Conservative)
Eluned Parrot (Liberal Democrats)

Broadband and the rural debate

IT is interesting to see that Plaid Cymru and Chris Franks AM have, albeit belatedly, joined the rural Broadband debate.

This has been perhaps the most discussed topic at Colwinston Community Council over the last four years, during which time our Vale representatives, Jane Hutt AM and Alun Cairns MP, have been instrumental in getting the problems of rural accessibility addressed throughout the area.

As a result, Colwinston is, we understand, about to be connected to the fibre optic feed which runs adjacent to the village along the A48, and also to benefit from the upgrading of the BT exchange in Bridgend.

Unfortunately, other rural areas are not quite so fortunate and in some cases a satellite connection, for which grants of up to £1,000 are available might be the only immediate solution.

The problem remains that Cable operators and some other service providers such as British Gas are not interested in rural areas anywhere in the UK, simply because the cost/revenue equation does not balance.

This is why The Welsh Assembly Government and the Westminster Parliament need to provide support if business interests, as well as private individuals who work from home and now rely on Broadband, are to compete successfully.

For their part, BT are notoriously difficult to contact and when this is achieved conflicting answers, explanations and promises come from different people.

This is incredibly frustrating and it is only through Alun Cairns' most recent efforts that we have been able to get credible and consistent answers and a better idea as to what improvements we might expect and when.

However, BT/Openreach still need to make the final connections to Colwinston and I think it fair to say 'that we shall believe it when we see it'.

Coun P Graham-Woollard,
(Chairman, Colwinston Community Council)

'THANKS TO GEM'

GRATEFUL thanks for the splendid GEM coverage of the St Cadoc's paintings launch evening.

It was invaluable to us, and much appreciated.
Ian Fell.
Director, Media for Heritage, Llancarfan
(pp Sam Smith, chairman of the Conservation Committee).

Dealing with the deficit

AS far as I understand it, Keynes said that money should be saved in good times so that it can be spent in bad; the suggestion is that this did not happen and that money was just spent until it had all gone.

The longer any problem is left unaddressed, the worse the cure is likely to be – but this does not mean that the cure can be avoided indefinitely.

Whether it will result in social unrest remains to be seen; let us hope not.

When we hear about 'paying off the deficit', it is worth remembering that no-one is suggesting actually paying off anything at all.

The best we can expect is that the government overdraft will increase at a slightly slower rate. This overdraft is currently the equivalent of about £15,000 for every man woman and child in the country.

In 2002 it was about £5,200 and it is increasing now at £50 a week each. Until the deficit becomes a surplus, the government will have to pay interest on the whole lot.

R Bradshaw,
Cowbridge

St Athan forum 'right behind' the MoD college

I FELT that I should write as there continues to be some confusion about the future of the Defence Technical College (DTC) at St Athan.

The facts are clear; not only does the Ministry of Defence (MoD) still wish to see the centralisation of technical training for the Army, Navy and Air Force on a 'Tri-Service' basis, but St Athan also has a very good chance indeed of once again being selected to deliver this training.

I attended an excellent meeting of the St Athan Forum led by our Assembly Member, Jane Hutt AM, which included MoD personnel, key Welsh Assembly Government civil servants, officers and elected members from the Vale Council and representatives from town and community councils. Those present from the MoD confirmed that a decision should be made by March 31 2011, and they were left in no doubt by everyone else represented at the Forum that we were all united in our determination to do everything possible to ensure that St Athan was selected as the preferred location for the new DTC.

It was clear that not only would it be hugely costly and time-consuming to start again somewhere else, but also that a great deal of public money had already been spent.

St Athan remains exceedingly well placed to deliver this vital technical training for our Armed Forces, and it is very good news indeed that we in Wales are united in our determination 'to make it happen'.

Coun Rhodri Traherne,
(Vale cabinet member for economic development and regeneration)

Questions for the Barry Consortium

THE Consortium in Barry is pressing for approval for 'The Quays' plan for the Western Dock.

They state (The GEM, November 11) that proposals have been changed from the original outline, to include a "detailed application for a major road link" through the heart of the scheme, providing a new connection between the town and Barry Island.

Quite. That means they have to supply traffic flows, a traffic impact assessment, and a description of how they will limit impacts of through-traffic in terms of speed and hazards, especially to children.

How will the leisure uses of the Waterside strip and green areas be separated from the traffic? How will the problems of peak holiday day-trippers to the Island be handled – both the traffic queues and the on-street parkers completing their journey on foot?

What of the round-Wales coastal path which also needs a link Why no proposal from the Consortium? What about the Cycleway links to Barry Island and to the Knap?

Welsh policy requires routes to cyclists for a key destination like Barry Island, and a segregated path suitable for youngsters and less confident cyclists is clearly desirable.

So why no proposal from the Consortium?

As the article states, they've worked (in secret) with the council's planning team. But under environmental impact assessment legislation, such cosy relations are out-of-date.

They are required to provide full information for public consultation and put all documents in the public domain.

Their closing of the Ash path, which has annoyed many of us, should have been included in those documents.

People would then have told them it is a right-of-way because of regular unhindered use for more than 20 years.

Many people who wanted to walk to the island for the fireworks display, on November 5, were annoyed and disappointed to find they had to walk all the way around, as the gates of the Ash Path had been welded shut by the Consortium.

So let's see a step back and their agreement to be open and democratic, following the impact assessment law, before the final decisions are taken

Keith Stockdale,
(Barry and Vale Friends of the Earth co-ordinator)

CHRISTMAS THANK YOU

I WOULD like to say a special thanks to all who helped at the 'Friends and Neighbours' Christmas party held at St Helen's Hall.

Despite the bad weather conditions, the party went with a bag. Thanks also go to our supporters, Barry Round Table, Barry Rotary and Western Power who sponsored the event and made this party possible.

Maggie, the chef, cooked us a wonderful meal.

We are also grateful to Barry ATC Squadron (372) who helped during the afternoon and to Santa for putting in a special appearance and giving out the 'goodies'.

Lastly, thank you to our special volunteers who made the afternoon possible by giving up their time to make such a wonderful day.

Gay Fifield, Barry
(Friends and Neighbours secretary)

HIGH TIDE TIMES

(UNTIL DECEMBER 23)

The high tides listed in this week's GEM are those in Porthcawl. It should be remembered that along the coast, high tide times will vary. For instance, in Barry, the high point will be 20 – 25 minutes later.

DATE	Time AM	Ht M	Time PM	Ht M
16 Thur	01.42	7.5	14.19	7.7
17 Fri	02.54	7.8	15.24	7.9
18 Sat	03.49	8.1	16.13	8.3
19 Sun	04.31	8.5	17.01	8.7
20 Mon	05.15	9.2	17.44	9.2
21 Tues	06.02	9.4	18.26	9.5
22 Wed	06.47	9.7	19.11	9.6
23 Thur	07.30	10.0	19.53	9.7

While The GEM makes every effort to check the accuracy of tide tables, we recommend that anyone putting out to sea, or walking in an area where they could be cut off, should always check with a tide table specific to their location.

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The St Mary Church villagers celebrate job very well done!

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)
ABOVE:
A toast to the St Mary Church villagers' success.
LEFT: Tim McIlveen and Geoff Simpson congratulate Melanie O'Neil who ran the final leg.

SCOUT POST HAS DELIVERED OVER 12,000 CARDS!

SCOUT Christmas Post has, once again, had a very busy time – in Cowbridge we have sold more than 11,000 stamps and delivered more than 12,000 cards.

By Sunday, December 19 all the cards should be delivered.

First of all, I would like to thank our local sellers of stamps, without whom the whole operation would be impossible.

The other thank you must go to the gang of sorters and deliverers who seem to enjoy, in a few cases, deciphering writing and wrong addresses, or even no addresses at all!

This year, we have two cards for Emma and Simon, and Judy and Robert, with no surname and address.

The other problem, and cost, is those cards addressed to areas to which we do not deliver, namely Bridgend, Pencoed, Pontyclun, Miskin, Ogmore and St Brides Major. Please remember for next year!

The early posting cut-off date is necessary to allow our voluntary postmen two clear weekends before Christmas Day.

Using the Scout Post has contributed over £1,600 towards the cost of running the Cowbridge Scout Group, which currently has a membership of more than 80 boys and girls who meet regularly once a week in school term times.

David Weber,
Llanblethian
(Unit assistant)

COWBRIDGE BRIDGE CLUB NEWS

VALE of Glamorgan Bridge Club (Monday, December 6).

First, Amy Owen and Graham Norris 59.38 per cent; second, John Evans and Terry Reilly 58.75; third, Marjorie Morris and Linda Pinnock 56.25; fourth, Anne Hughes and Sara Bartlett 53.13; fifth, David Wright and John Raymond 51.88; fifth, Marion and David Stephenson 51.88.

Cowbridge and District Bridge Club (Tuesday, December 7).

First, Margaret Bancroft and Brian Swain 61.98 per cent; second, Anna Hughes and Sara Bartlett 60.19; Mearl Owen and Debbie Rosevear 58.33; fourth, Joan Bird and Luba Ashworth 55.21; fifth, Anne Miller and Pauline Lane 55.09; sixth, Teri Pollard and David Wright 54.17.

A very happy Christmas and New Year to all GEM staff and also every bridge player in the Vale. ***BS***

PENLLYN WI NEWS

Craft fayre goes down a storm!

PENLLYN and District WI held a craft fayre on November 17, opened by AM Jane Hutt, who praised the work of the WI and was very complimentary regarding our small, but thriving and industrious institute.

The event was well-attended in spite of the wintry weather. A few of our members went along to the group carol service held on December 2.

The meeting on December 7 in Penllyn Village was opened by president, Novello Peters.

Following the signing of the minutes, the president introduced Stephen Jarvis from Bridgend, who gave an interesting demonstration of cake decorating, (later the competed cake was raffled).

As he worked, Stephen gave information on different types of icing and sugars, with hints and tips on decorating.

Many of us were surprised to learn that we should make our Christmas cakes a whole year before we want to use them!

The speaker was thanked by Novello Peters, and a short business meeting followed; members were reminded of various forthcoming federation and local events.

Some members are planning to go to a Christmas evening in Tredegar House on Friday, December 17. Monthly craft evenings will resume in the New Year, (planned for the third Wednesday of every month).

The festive meal out this year will be held in 'The Fox,' Penllyn, on January 18.

Various raffles were drawn, and members enjoyed a buffet prepared by the committee members.

At the next meeting in Penllyn Village Hall on January 4 at 7.30pm, the speaker's subject will be 'Mrs Beeton.'

New members are always warmly welcomed; we meet on the first Tuesday in every month (except August) at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.

For further information, contact Novello (01656 674191) or Marjorie (01656 647115). **MN**

Locals get in the swing of Tracy's Cowbridge ceilidh

A ceilidh was held at Cowbridge Town Hall on Friday, December 10 to raise money for Tracy Stubbington's 'Great Wall of China Marie Curie Walk'.

As you can see from Mike Wilcock's pictures of the evening, things went with quite a swing thanks to local musicians 'Thingamijigs'.

Tracy plans to walk part of the Great Wall of China in September next year.

Photographs by **MIKE WILCOCK**

Group's thanks

I WOULD just like to say a big 'thank you' to everyone who braved the bad weather to attend a coffee morning held at Boverton on December 3, in aid of Marie Curie Cancer Care. We raised a grand total of £330.

Marlene Wheeldon,
(*On behalf of the Marie Curie Llantwit Major support group*)

COMMUNITY NEWS

TREOES, LLANGAN & ST MARY HILL

Your local correspondent is Nancy Davidge, "Tynewydd", Llangan. (01656) 860303

School concert

ONCE again, the Llangan Primary School Hall was filled to capacity for the Christmas concert, which took place on December 9.

It really is amazing to see and hear children so tiny playing such an important part.

Speaking to one parent who had a child taking part in the concert, who asked if my grandchild was in the concert, I replied no, but that I attended Llangan school 80 years ago and support the school as much as I possibly can.

The only cloud on the horizon that could have affected the school in the coming months was the question of parking, which now seems to have been resolved.following The GEM's report last week.

Diary dates

A CHILDREN'S party will take place at Llangan and St Mary Hill hall at 6pm on December 18 when Father Christmas has promised to visit.

On New Year's Eve, a family party will take place, with a disco, games (adult tickets £2) from 7pm. Residents from Penllyn will be welcome.

Treoes village community hall will host a New Year's Eve dance from 7pm. Tickets £5 per couple. Please call 01656 650383.

Services

THIS year's Saron Chapel carol service was once again a resounding success. Children at the tender age of four years played a part with singing and recitation.

There followed a tea party in the village hall, which had been organised by the hall committee. There was great excitement when bells could be heard to herald the arrival of Father Christmas with gifts for all the children.

REMINDER

ST Mary Hill church will hold a carol service on December 19 at 11.15am.

Speed limit lottery

THE ever-changing speed limit on the Cowbridge by-pass is like a lottery – one day 50 mph, next 40 mph, next 30 mph!

With all the large and small interval signs to change in these spending cuts times, at least it's keeping someone in highways busy!

Or is it a plan by the speed camera units to catch you out?

RG Thomas,
Colwinston

Carols in Cowbridge

THE United Free Church new roof is now in place at Cowbridge, and the building is fully back in use ready for the annual carols by candlelight service on Sunday, December 19, at 6pm.

The guest artistes this year will be the choir of Ysgol Iolo Morganwg, and the proceeds will be going to the Headway charity.

Read your GEM online: ***cowbridge-today.co.uk***

Milsom House Nursing Home, St Athan

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Manager Gillian Allison
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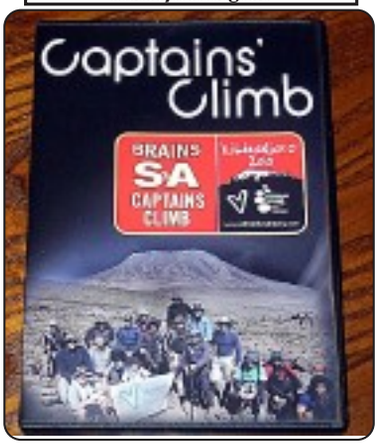
www.milsomhouse.co.uk

'THE DUKE' HOSTS THE CAPTAINS' DVD LAUNCH

THE Duke of Wellington Public House in Cowbridge was the setting last week for the launch of the 'Captains' Climb' DVD which relates the story of how former Welsh rugby captains climbed Mount Kilimanjaro earlier this year on behalf of Velindre Cancer Centre.

On hand were two of those captains, Ieuan Evans and Jonathan Humphries, to sign DVDs and publicise the website www.velindrefundraising.com. (*See story right*)

Photographs by PAUL JONES
For more pictures, go to:
www.valeevents.co.uk/ dukeofwellington



Group raises £950 for Velindre Hospital

COWBRIDGE Stitch and Bitch (above) raised £950 for Velindre Hospital at an afternoon tea in the Duke of Wellington pub, Cowbridge on December 12.

Festive meal beats cold!

LLANHARRY WI NEWS

ON December 7, members braved the cold wether to make their way to the Llanharry Workingmen's Club for the Christmas dinner.

A warm welcome awaited and a delicious hot meal was enjoyed by everyone.

Members were saddened to hear that Rhianydd Jervis had recently passed away. Rhianydd was a founder member of the Institute in 1947 and as a mark of respect, silence was observed.

New president, Jill Rosser, presented Pauline Charles with the Joan Thomas Shield for winning the most monthly competitions during the year.

New programmes were given out and the first meeting of the new year is on January 4 at 7.30pm.

JR

PLAY AREA OPENED AT EWENNY

The scene at the opening of the play area at Ewenny.

A VIP grown-up joined youngsters at the official opening of Ewenny Play area, on an icy but sunny Sunday morning!

With support from the Creative Rural Communities team and funding from the Welsh Assembly Government's Rural Development Plan, Tidy Towns, and 0the Aggregates Levy, the new playground has 'state of the art' equipment with space for parents and children to play, in a lovely setting in the village.

Vale AM Jane Hutt said: "I would like to congratulate Ewenny Community Council on securing the funds and delivering the playground project with the support of the Vale Council who will maintain the area.

"The official opening attracted a large number of children and their parents who were pleased with the new facility in this thriving village.

"I am delighted that the funding for the Welsh Assembly's Rural Development Plan and Tidy Towns has been able to back excellent schemes like this."

Ystradowen student spreads her wings!

A student from Ystradowen has just gained her flying 'wings' at the age of 22.

Hollie Rosier of Sevenoaks Fish Farm, is currently in her fourth and final year at Swansea University, studying aerospace engineering.

She joined the University of Wales Air Squadron based at St Athan and has worked her way through the flying syllabus. She won a scholarship with the Air League, funded by Airbus UK, to take her through the exams and the flying programme .

Hollie has now gained her private pilot's licence and has also been commissioned as an officer in the squadron with the rank of Pilot Officer.

Hollie has gained her 'wings' thanks to help from the 'Air League'.

She said: "I love flying and would like to be a pilot with the RAF when I leave university. Failing that, I would like to be a commercial pilot," she said.

Hollie comes originally from Llantrisant and is the daughter of Terry and June Rosier. She attended Ysgol Gyfun Llanhari and is a fluent Welsh speaker.

Stage CAMP promises to be 'creative' school

STAGE CAMP, a local performance school, is making use of the new facilities at Cowbridge Comprehensive School, starting on January 8, 2011.

Stage CAMP has been set up as a more creative and affordable performance school.

As well as having teachers who specialise in musical theatre and drama, the school also provides guidance for the budding songwriter and rock and pop aspect of the industry.

The school will be giving a free place to one student in the forthcoming January classes. Any pupil wishing to audition or wanting more information should apply via info@stagecamp.co.uk.

Ambulance and car in collision

A car overturned after colliding with an ambulance at a crossroads in Talbot Green on Sunday, December 12.

The incident took place in the afternoon. A police spokesman said: "A collision occurred between an ambulance and a blue Vauxhall Zafira at the A119 junction with Talbot Road, at approximately 3.22pm.

"The 32-year-old driver of the Vauxhall sustained injuries which were not life-threatening, and was admitted to the Royal Glamorgan Hospital."

The police are appealing for witnesses: call 101 or crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

41 Club celebrates festive period in Cowbridge

ABOVE: Members of the Vale of Glamorgan 41 Club, along with chairman Eugene Murphy, celebrated Christmas with a formal dinner at the Cross Inn, Llanblethian.

After The GEM highlights fears over traffic dangers to pupils...

LLANGAN PRIMARY SCHOOL CAR PARK GETS THUMBS-UP!

A Vale primary school, which feared it would miss out on a car park needed to ensure children were not endangered by traffic on a main road, is celebrating news that it will go ahead after all.

LEFT: Mrs Mary Noyes, pupils, staff and parents, are joined by Alun Cairns MP and Coun Ray Thomas to celebrate news that Llangan Primary School should be getting its new car park some time in the New Year.

Report by TIM CHAPMAN

The relieved headteacher of Llangan Primary School, Mrs Mary Noyes, announced: "We're delighted to get what we wanted with the building of a car park which will ensure the safety of the children."

Last week, The GEM reported that governors and staff were fearful a child might get injured outside the school gates, with vehicles often driving along the main road at excessive speeds.

The school authorities had hoped that a £130,000 scheme for a car park behind Llangan Primary would go ahead in February, but a change in what was planned led to the figure rocketing to £280,000.

It appeared doomed because of the rising costs.

At present, pupils are picked up by their parents who park in a lay-by in front of the school with heavy traffic passing by just feet from their cars.

But the matter was resolved, following a meeting involving the Vale Council Leader, Coun Gordon Kemp, the director of learning and development, Brian Jeffreys, the school's head of governors, Huw Davey, and the headteacher Mrs Noyes.

During the meeting, Mrs Noyes was able to take the leader and the director of learning to the proposed site for the new car park.

Part of the reason that the scheme is able to go ahead in the first place is because of the generosity of Mr John Homfray, a local landowner, who two years ago gave a field to the school for the precise purpose of building a car park.

Mrs Noyes said: "We're hoping it will go ahead in the New Year, but it will first have to go to planning.

"I'd like to thank everyone who supported us. We're also grateful for the help of the local MP Alun Cairns and Coun Ray Thomas.

"This is a huge relief for the parents who have petitioned locally for a car park for many years."

Mr Cairns said: "When I visited the school in September it was the number one issue raised and I'm delighted that through the campaign by the governors, headteacher, the parents, and Coun Thomas a solution now seems to have been found."

Mr Cairns said that if the budget allowed the car park to be situated nearer to the school than originally planned that would be "the better option".

Mrs Noyes added: "We are also looking for help from any local industries that might be able to support us in terms of resources or funding."

Mrs Noyes first called for a car park away from the main road seven years ago.

Five years ago, a youngster sustained a serious head injury after being hit by a vehicle wing mirror; and three years ago, two women escaped injury when they were picking up children and their cars were hit by passing vehicles.

It seems that next year the school will have two major celebrations – its centenary year and its new 'safe' car park.

Bryan Jeffreys, the director of learning and development at the Vale Council, explained:

"The meeting provided a helpful opportunity to clarify the expectation of the council to ensure the development of pupil safety arrangements which are achievable, effective and which will be fully utilised by parents.

"The council's decision to amend the proposals to achieve these objectives was understood and supported.

"New plans are now being developed in consultation with the school."

CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT AT ST DONATS

ST DONATS CHURCH was packed for a candlelit carol service with contributions from St Donats' Choir and musicians, readings by Atlantic College students, and a delightful play Jesus' Christmas Party by the children.

The celebrity touch was added to the congregation by Connie Fisher and her husband, who were recently married in the church.

There was a collection for Hope International Indonesia disaster relief.

PHOTOGRAPHS by HEATHER MARCH

COMMUNITY NEWS

LLANBETHERY & LLANCARFAN

Your community correspondents are Sam & Patsie Smith on (01446) 751448

Boxing Day in Llancarfan

AS December 26 is a Sunday this year, it has been decided that the normal Boxing Day celebrations in the village should be held on Monday, December 27, so the Tug O'War and the Duck Egg race will now be held on that day.

The festivities should begin with the first pull at about 12.30pm; with the Duck Eggs at about 1.15pm. Anyone wishing to raise a team for the pull should try to turn up by 12.15pm.

Duck Egg entry forms are available at the Fox and Hounds both before and on the day of the race.

The day that Derek met his namesake...

ON December 2, Cottrell Park Golf Club's ladies section organised a Christmas craft fayre, with all profits being donated to the Captains' charity, 'Friends of Velindre'.

Derek Brockway (The BBC weatherman), attended the event to officially open the fayre and to sign copies of his three popular books, one of which is called *Whatever the Weather*. It details his life from a young boy and how his passion for the weather resulted in his present career.

During the event there was a photo opportunity as namesake manager of Cottrell Park Golf Club, Mr Derek Smith, introduced himself to the weather guru!

Derek humoured his audience with a short run down of the forthcoming weather forecast and finished with – 'The sun will always shine on Cottrell Park!'.

Cottrell Park and the club captains, Lorraine Pointon Bell and Stephen Lewis, thanked Derek Brockway for opening the event, the stand holders for presenting a fine display of Christmas wares and the attendees who raised an amazing £1,000 for the charity 'Friends of Velindre'.

The ladies Christmas lunch was held on December 9 and the lady captain, Lorraine Pointon-Bell, arranged for trees on the Mackintosh course at the club to be dressed with Christmas decorations.

The halfway house has also been transformed into a grotto to house Father Christmas, who is providing hot mulled wine and mince pies to all participants in the golf competition preceding the festivities.

Axe falls on Vale Magistrates Court

THE Vale Magistrates Court is to be closed despite a six-month battle by local politicians to keep it open.

The local MP Alun Cairns told The GEM he was "aghast at the decision".

It means that another facility – along with the driving test centre and the cinema in recent times – will be lost to Barry and the wider Vale.

The court had been under threat since June 6 when a Ministry of Justice consultation paper was published recommending that the court close and proposing cases be heard in Cardiff instead.

The Vale's Assembly Member Jane Hutt described the decision as "a devastating blow for Barry".

She said: "It shows complete disregard of the strong representations made to keep the court, situated in the largest town in Wales, open and continuing its excellent local justice services, which include a family court and domestic violence court.

"The petition I submitted of 1,000 signatures opposing the closure demonstrated the vast amount of support for these services.

"Confirmation of the court's closure is a bitter blow for the people of the Vale this Christmas."

The decision was condemned by Vale MP Alun Cairns, who helped to present the court's case for staying open to the Ministry of Justice.

Mr Cairns said: "The decision to close the court is wrong. I have told the Minister so in no uncertain terms.

"As a result, he has agreed to meet me again to discuss the matter and I have asked David Taylor, chairman of the magistrates' bench to join me.

"I want to ensure that the Minister appreciated the full consequences.

"I know there is a need to save money but there are plenty of other ways to cut back."

Mr Cairns said he was concerned there would be a number of consequences which might flow from closure.

"This will mean more pressure in time and money on the police. It runs the risk of losing local magistrates and flies in the face of local justice.

"On a map, Cardiff may seem to be a short distance away but they are very different communities. Barry serves the whole of the Vale.

"Local magistrates, charitable groups and I worked together to prepare the case supporting the court. I am aghast at the decision and will not let it rest."

Plaid Cymru candidate for the Vale, Dr Ian Johnson, said he was "saddened and disappointed" by the news.

"We used to have a court in Cowbridge, which also closed, and we are now left without a single court in the whole Vale.

"The purpose of local justice is that it is held in the community. That has now gone by the wayside, with defendants, witnesses and solicitors having to travel to Cardiff and Bridgend."

The Coalition Justice Minister Jonathan Djanogly argued that reform of the court estate would deliver a modern, efficient justice system with victims and witnesses at its centre. He said £22million would be invested in modernising courts.

Mr Djanogly pointed out: "Access to justice is not just about access to buildings. It's about the type of justice delivered, decent facilities for victims and witnesses and efficient use of the system."

Mr Djanogly said that the court estate has not kept pace with the changing nature of society or with the demands that modern society places on the justice system.

"An estate of more than 500 court buildings is not now necessary or sustainable, nor is it a reasonable expense for the taxpayer.

"We are closing the worst courts in the estate – so we can concentrate our limited resources on the best ones.

"We are investing in the court estate with new buildings and with refurbishment of facilities.

"We have listened to the significant points made by respondents to the consultation.

"As a result we have decided not to close 15 courts which were included in the consultation."

The Minister admitted : "There will be longer journeys for some to their closest court but we should not operate courts just to shave minutes off a journey that many will never need to make."

Of the courts consulted on in Wales 16 will close and two will be retained.

St Athan gets ready for Christmas as its festive illuminations light up village

Atlantic boat is star guest at Llancarfan school's Christmas

LLANCARFAN Primary School opened the doors to its Christmas fete, raising more than £800 for the PTA, which will go towards funding additional equipment and trips for pupils.

Christmas wreaths, jewellery, homemade 'Llancarfan Primary School' plum jam, and chocolate puddings were just some of the things on offer.

Father Christmas also made a very welcome appearance, which delighted the younger visitors to the fete.

Pupils had the chance to sit in the Team Atlantic Dash rowing boat which John Haskell and fellow Ely firefighter, Kevin Dite, will row across the Atlantic in December 2011 to raise funds for charity. John has two children at the school, Megan and Morgan. The school will be charting their progress via the internet and communicating via satellite phone.

Llancarfan youngsters were excited to have the chance to sit in the Team Atlantic Dash rowing boat.

To round off a very successful day, the raffle winners were announced, and they took home some fantastic prizes from hampers to beauty treatments.

SH

ST ATHAN switched on its Christmas lights recently, and residents were out to enjoy the evening.

In the photograph above (from left to right) are: Wing Commander Jones; Phil Allen of Aberthaw Power Station; Deacon Sam Taylor from The Gathering Place; Rev Melanie Prince; organiser Alan Bourne; and Steve Haine, the chairman of St. Athan Community Council.

A council spokesman said: "We would like to thank the RAF for supplying the marshals and Aberthaw Power Station for sponsoring the event"

ABOVE: Getting ready for the big switch-on!

VALE of GLAMORGAN
BRO MORGANNWG

Keep up to date with all your council information over the festive period by visiting:

www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk

or call Contact OneVale on:

01446 700111

Our Christmas opening hours are:

	Friday 24 December	Saturday 25 December	Sunday 26 December	Monday 27 December	Tuesday 28 December	Wednesday 29 December	Thursday 30 December	Friday 31 December	Saturday 1 January	Sunday 2 January	Monday 3 January
Contact One Vale	08:00 - 17:00	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	08:30 - 16:30	08:30 - 16:30	08:00 - 18:00	08:30 - 17:00	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED
In emergencies both Contact OneVale (01446 700111) and the Social Services Emergency Duty Team (029 2078 8570) are available 24-hours a day.											
Main Reception (Civic and Dock Offices)	08:00 - 16:30	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	08:30 - 17:00	08:30 - 16:30	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED
Benefits and Council Tax	08:45 - 16:45	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	08:45 - 16:30	08:45 - 16:00	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED
Housing	08:30 - 16:30	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	08:30 - 17:00	08:30 - 16:30	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED
Public Protection	08:30 - 16:30	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	08:30 - 17:00	08:30 - 16:30	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED
Cashiers/Finance	08:45 - 16:00	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	08:45 - 16:30	08:45 - 16:00	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED
Leisure Centres	Closing 17:00	CLOSED	CLOSED	Closing 17:00	Open as usual	Open as usual	Open as usual	Closing 17:00	CLOSED	Open as usual	Open as usual
Libraries	Closing 17:00	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	Open as usual	Closing 17:00	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED

You can also email C1V@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk or text C1V, then your message to 60066

There are no changes to your refuse or recycling days over the Christmas period.

The Vale of Glamorgan Council, Civic Offices, Holton Road, Barry CF63 4RU

WE WISH ALL OUR CUSTOMERS A VERY HAPPY CHRISTMAS

'RESPONDING TO SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC NEEDS IN WALES'

Assembly budget will spell out education (and health) priorities

AS I enjoy the many Christmas school, choir and church concerts and fairs leading up to Christmas, I have the opportunity to reflect on the year and look towards the challenges of 2011, not least as a result of Government policy changes in Westminster affecting us here in Wales.

Having the task of developing a budget for Wales which takes on board a role in reducing the UK Government deficit, but also seeks to respond to the social and economic needs of people in Wales, has been an enormous responsibility.

Our priorities were agreed much earlier this year, to protect schools, skills and vulnerable people.

We have sought to do that and the draft budget is now being scrutinised by the Assembly committees and partners in local government, the NHS, the private and voluntary sectors and the Wales TUC.

The debate on this budget will be held in January, leading to the final budget vote in early February.

Education has been at the forefront of our priorities, protecting funding for schools, which is reflected in the local government revenue settlement, as well as funding for further education and work-based learning through our Pathways to Apprenticeships scheme – Skills for Economic Renewal.

I am visiting Gibbonsdown Children's Centre and Oakfield School this week to assure them that funding for the pioneering Flying Start programme is protected and the full roll-out of the 3-7 year olds foundation phase in nursery and primary schools.

This funding is over and above the money that goes to the local education authority for schools.

We are also keeping the educational maintenance allowance for 16-18 year olds in Wales, due to be abolished in England.

With the vote last week in Westminster narrowly approving the UK Government's plans to allow universities to raise their fees to £9,000, the major news of the past fortnight has been the decision by the Welsh Assembly Government to help university students living in Wales, by meeting the extra cost from such a rise in England or Wales.

In his statement to the Assembly on November 30, the Education Minister, Leighton Andrews AM, said: "The message today is clear. Students ordinarily resident in Wales going to university in 2012-13 will be no worse off than if they had gone to university this year."

This will apply to all students who live in Wales, whether they choose to study in Wales or any other part of the UK.

We have been clear that higher education should be on the basis of the individual's potential to benefit – and not on the basis of what they can afford to pay.

There are a number of important changes to help students from 2012. The income threshold for repayment will rise from £15,000 to £21,000. Part-time students will also be able to access a tuition fee loan, depending on the intensity of their course.

This news was widely welcomed, not just by young people and their parents in Wales, such as my constituent Caelum Davies, who said: "My family and I are happy with the fantastic news from the Welsh Assembly Government! It's a big financial relief for us!"

Professor Malcolm Prowle from Nottingham University also welcomed this decision.

He wrote on the public finance blog that the Welsh Assembly Government seems to be aware that:

"*Having an educated workforce is essential for the Welsh economy and tripling university fees would have a huge impact on the number of Welsh young people going to university.*

"*...The Welsh Assembly Government did not go for the cheap headline of protecting the NHS, but chose its priorities carefully.*"

However, we are seeking to safeguard the NHS by making it the only budget line which is not being reduced next year and by increasing the allocation to 'NHS Delivery' which is spent on our health services at the sharp end.

Last week, I was pleased to welcome Edwina Hart AM, the Health Minister to Barry Hospital to announce an extra £110m for the NHS this year, to help meet the pressures which are very evident with the cold snap.

I also visited Barry Hospital on Monday to welcome the new elderly care assessment unit being put in place with the local team of GPs, Vale Social Services and the voluntary sector as well as the consultants, OTs, physiotherapists and nurses who provide such excellent care at Barry Community Hospital – all coming together for a more holistic, effective assessment of the needs of elderly people in the Vale.

You will soon see changes at Barry Hospital, with a new reception area opposite the front doors, as well as these new services taking off for frail, elderly people.

So we are investing in the NHS and developing services which meet the needs of people in the community with the health teams working ever more closely with social services, the voluntary sector and families.

Season's greetings to everyone in the Vale of Glamorgan!

ASSEMBLY NOTES

by Jane Hutt AM

(Assembly Minister for business and budget)

Jobless tops 7% in Barry ward

THE highest unemployment in the Vale is to be found in the Castleland ward in Barry where 7.3 per cent of those eligible to work are seeking jobs.

This figure has more than doubled since last January when the figure stood at 3.2 per cent.

The next highest figures are also to be found in Barry – in Buttrills where the figure is 5.6 per cent and Cadoc which is 5.5, but both of these wards have seen a slight fall in overall figures since the beginning of the year.

Most areas of the Vale have seen unemployment fall over the period January to October.

The lowest unemployment is in Peterston Super Ely where just 1 per cent are seeking work. Wenvoe stands at 1.1 per cent – which is a drop from 1.7 per cent last January.

Other areas where unemployment stands at less than 2 per cent are Llandow-Ewenny at 1.2 per cent; Cowbridge with 1.5 per cent, St Bride's with 1.6 per cent and Sully with 1.9 per cent.

SENIOR LAWYER CALLS FOR RETURN TO TRADITIONAL PROFESSIONAL VALUES

Beech & Co Lawyers, commercial property and business law specialists of Cowbridge have merged with Peter Davies Solicitors of Cardiff and James & Bulteel of Pontypridd. The three firms have joined together under the umbrella of a new business venture called Glamorgan Law.

"This is a great move for us" said Richard Beech. "Glamorgan Law represents a great opportunity for us to offer our rapidly growing client base in South Wales and elsewhere a full range of services. Each member firm of Glamorgan Law will retain its individual identity and speciality focus but will be able to call on the skills of the other parts of the new business when needed. It's good for us and good for our clients".

Peter Davies, President of the Cardiff Law Society, said: "We have built a strong reputation as one of the leaders in the field of litigation and dispute resolution in South Wales in the last decade. As a result of our mergers this year we can now meet all our client's legal needs from offices throughout South Wales, including property services such as house buying and selling, as well as enhancing our existing expertise in areas such as family law, employment law and wills, probate and trusts. Richard Beech, who has unrivalled commercial property and business law expertise adds a cutting edge to our services for business clients."

He continued: "In the current economic climate it is understandable that many law firms are anxious about the threat from major players such as banks and supermarkets who want a piece of the legal market and are looking to move into traditional areas of legal practice such as house conveyancing and wills and probate work. It is true that some, particularly smaller high street practices may not survive but we are confident that we are in a very strong position to meet the challenges and thrive in the years ahead. I have no doubt that there will remain a robust demand for lawyers in traditional law firms who are able to combine good value with excellent service delivered by properly trained lawyers."

Jill Bulteel, resident partner at Glamorgan law, Pontypridd, added: "Clients justifiably expect solicitors to behave in a decent, honourable, professional manner and to deliver a high level of skill at reasonable cost. Not all of our profession has covered itself with glory in the past couple of decades. We believe that a return to traditional professional values is essential to combat the big battalions such as the Co-op and Tesco law and that is what Glamorgan Law is all about."

glamorganlaw

Glamorgan Law

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For further information contact Richard Beech, Jill Bulteel or Peter Davies at

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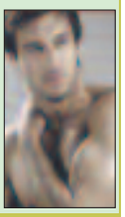

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Fundraiser is planned to get Tobias a breathing pacemaker

ABOVE: Tobias enjoying a short, but cold break just outside the hospital.

REPORT by TIM CHAPMAN

FUNDRAISERS for Tobias Lunnon have set themselves the huge new target of £20,000 to pay for a breathing pacemaker.

They hope it will make life that little bit more bearable for the six-year-old youngster who was paralysed in a road traffic collision, and remains in Addenbrooke's Hospital, Cambridge with his mum Fiona at his side.

Chief fundraiser Tracey Smith explained: "Our aim is to do a massive new fundraiser in the New Year to get Tobias a breathing pacemaker which costs £20,000.

"It will help him off the tracheotomy and means that when he goes to school he will only need one nurse rather than two."

Tobias attends a school in the hospital and keeps in touch with his friends at Ysgol Gwaun y Nant in Barry via a Skype device attached to a laptop computer paid for by fundraisers in Barry and the rest of the Vale.

Tracey said: "I know this is a very big target, but we're going to try our hardest. With the help of The GEM, Steve Powell and Bro Radio, local band Brother Steve, and others, we think we can go a good way to the total.

"Even if we raised just half of it – £10,000 – it might mean we could get the remaining amount from a funding source."

People continue to help Tobias and Fiona in all sorts of ways.

Tracey said: "Part of the new fundraiser will involve auctioning items that have been kindly given to us.

"We have a rugby ball signed by the Welsh captains who went on the Mount Kilimanjaro climb. Another item is a signed Cardiff Blues rugby top, and we've got a golf cap autographed by the Ryder Cup golfers.

"One man won £100 on the horses and told us he wanted to give it to Tobias!

"Natalie Braithwaite of British Gas has raised £1,200 and is arranging to have presents delivered to Tobias which include a DVD/TV and a globe that can be projected onto the ceiling."

Tobias has also managed to get outside the hospital building in the last few days.

His mum Fiona said: "Tobias got out in the cold and was wrapped up like an eskimo against the winter wind!

"We joked that he looked like Rudolf the red nose reindeer!

"His new chair should be arriving next week, and that will have a proper head support, and will be easier to push than the armchair version.

"Tobias also went on the tilt table and managed to go up to 90 per cent. In fact, he asked the physiotherapists to put him up the whole way – he likes to push himself a little bit further."

Fiona is also heartened by the fact that Tobias is doing so well educationally.

"He recently completed an online maths test at the hospital school and was a year ahead in his result. He is really proud of his abilities and often comes out top of the class."

Fiona added: "Thank you to everyone who has kindly taken the time to send Christmas cards to Tobias. He eagerly looks forward to his mail and enjoys seeing the cards.

"The hospital let him put up his Christmas tree early. Tobias and I want to wish everyone a truly magical Christmas."

The GEM will give more details on the new fundraiser in the New Year.

Cheques, payable to Tobias Lunnon, can be handed into Steve Nicholls Estate Agents at 15 High Street, Barry, CF62 7EB.

'Plans for Bosch site must be spelt out' – says Vale MP

THE Vale MP has claimed that development around the former Bosch factory is being delayed by uncertainty over development of a new business park at Cardiff West.

The Cardiff West scheme was being promoted by Cardiff City Council but it is now in doubt, with the council in the process of preparing a new development plan, after withdrawing the previous plan in April this year.

Mr Cairns believes that this uncertainty is having a knock-on effect on plans to attract new industry to the Bosch site further down the M4 from Junction 33, where Cardiff West, a business park, was proposed.

He explained: "The Welsh Assembly Government seems to have no plan at all for the land around Bosch.

"This is a key development site which is hugely important for the creation of jobs in the Vale.

"I went to Germany to meet Bosch directors and they said that they would be disposing of the site for development, which had community support, within 12 months of the closure.

"We are already six months into that but nothing is being done.

"There is no policy for Bosch because WAG is focussing on the Junction 33 development instead.

"The Vale is paying the price for the confusion and delays caused by Cardiff City Council and the Welsh Assembly Government."

Mr Cairns said he was writing to Deputy First Minister Ieuan Wyn Jones asking him to spell out what plans they have for the Bosch site.

"We need them to be exploring the options now, but they are paralysed by indecision. It's time for action."

Recently, Mr Cairns met members of the Cardiff Commercial Property Forum to discuss both schemes.

A Welsh Assembly Government spokesman said: "We cannot comment on the Cardiff Development Plan as this is a planning matter.

"When it comes to the former Bosch site, we are working with the site's owners and the local authority to review all options available to explore any future potential use of the site.

"We recently met representatives from Bosch, the Vale Council and Bosch's nominated consultants for design and marketing of the site.

"It was agreed to set up a working group with Bosch's designers to consider and develop proposals."

A spokeswoman for Cardiff Council said: "Cardiff's Local Development Plan was withdrawn in April 2010 and work is now under way on the preparation of a new plan

"Therefore, Cardiff County Council has no current development plan proposals in place for a business park on land north of Junction 33 of the M4.

"The new LDP will set out a land use strategy for Cardiff and is anticipated to be adopted in 2014.

"Work is currently under way on preparing a 'preferred strategy' that is planned to be considered by Cardiff Council in October 2011."

Airport charge to use trolleys

A NEW 'improved' trolley service at Cardiff Airport means that it will soon cost £2 to use a baggage trolley.

Unlike the trolley parks commonly in use at supermarkets, that £2 will be non-refundable!

The new trolleys will be introduced today (December 16) supplied by the Newport-based company Airport Cart Service (ACS), which will supply and operate the trolley service.

Margaret James, quality and contracts manager at Cardiff Airport, commented: "Our aim is to improve the trolley service for those travelling through the airport, and to do this the existing trolleys need to be replaced.

"We're working with specialist company ACS Limited to offer our customers the highest quality product and service available."

Mrs James continued: "There is a cost associated with the improved service which must be recovered by ACS Limited."

Cardiff Airport will not be receiving any income from this fee.

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FOLLOW THE (Vale) LEADER!

New year promises change for councils

by Coun GORDON KEMP
Leader of the Vale Council

A NEW year is fast approaching, and with it a year of change for many councils: There has been much talk about shared services and partnership working, and the Vale is taking the lead in this area.

We have just agreed a 'memorandum of understanding' with Bridgend County Borough Council. This means in the future we could see more joint staff appointments, the sharing of specialist skills and joint procurement – leading to savings and efficiencies.

For the past year, our principal auditor has been jointly managing the Vale's and Bridgend's audit services.

We already also have the long-standing arrangement whereby Bridgend offers a crematorium service to the Vale.

Future plans for joint working projects will need to be supported by a business case demonstrating that they will produce savings and benefits, such as protecting and improving services.

New figures for the Vale bode well for the coming year – the Vale had the lowest absence figures of the 22 Welsh councils in the year 2009–10.

Vale staff absence rates, including schools, reduced further to only 4.2 days per employee in the six-month period April to September 2010.

The council introduced a new sickness management policy in 2008 and these figures are a testament to the hard work of everyone involved in the development and implementation of the policy.

Sickness absence has a dire effect on council services and finances, and we will work to maintain a low absence rate.

The council's annual 'Looked after Children Awards' took place at the end of November and we were pleased to welcome the deputy minister for Social Care, Gwenda Thomas.

The youngsters received awards for a range of achievements, including academic success, improved behaviour and sporting and artistic achievements.

The children and young people were joined at the event by their foster carers, their families, social workers and teachers.

Everyone enjoyed entertainment from pupils of Barry, St Richard Gwyn and Cardinal Newman Comprehensive Schools, including musical performances and street dancing. Well done to all the award winners.

Finally, may I wish everyone in the Vale of Glamorgan a merry Christmas and a happy New Year.

Inspiring Welsh school teacher's Oxford award

TEACHER Ceri Anwen James, of Ysgol Gyfun Bro Morgannwg, is one of eight winners of the inaugural University of Oxford 'Inspirational Teachers Award', thanks to a nomination by first-year Oxford student Ruth Pilcher.

Mike Nicholson, the director of undergraduate admissions at Oxford, said: "We started the award as a way of recognising the importance of school or college teachers as a particular source of encouragement and inspiration to students.

"There is a huge amount of hard work and dedication involved in securing a place at Oxford, and the submissions we received underscored how important a role teachers play in this process.

Ruth, now a student at St John's College, said in her nomination: "*My German teacher and form tutor, Miss Ceri Anwen James, was an absolute inspiration, educationally and personally.*

"*It was Miss James who encouraged us to apply to Oxbridge in the first place and she, more than anyone, helped with my application. As a form tutor, she was second to none.*"

The winning teachers will receive book tokens to use in their school or college, and a framed certificate signed by Oxford's Vice-Chancellor, Professor Andrew Hamilton.

Artwork's permanent home in town library

WELSH artist Charles Byrd has donated one of his automated machines to the Vale Council.

'A Maquette for a Futuristic Tower', will be permanently sited in the County Library, Barry. At the handing over ceremony, the Mayor of the Vale, Coun Colin Osborne, thanked him for giving the people of the Vale the opportunity to enjoy a piece of his art.

Charles Byrd is a self-taught painter, sculptor and kinetic artist. In the 1960s, he turned his attention to kinetic sculpture. His work is represented in many public collections.

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PULLING POWER OF THE GEM!

Hundreds enter our latest competitions

ABOVE: Mrs Williams receives her luxury hamper, courtesy of Chris White of Waitrose store, Barry.

IN the last few weeks, literally hundreds of people have entered GEM competitions, with the latest lucky winner being Mrs Doreen Williams from Llantwit Major.

Mrs Williams won a luxury Waitrose hamper full of Christmas goodies.

She said: "It was a lovely surprise – more so because I'd forgotten that I'd entered!"

Mrs Williams plans to have her family around for the Christmas Day meal and now has a few little extras to share.

GEM advertising executive Jan Irving said: "The response to the Waitrose competition was amazing. We had well over 100 people who entered – not just from the Vale and Bridgend, but also from Cardiff and the Valleys.

"Our other competition prize, for a meal for two in the Beech Tree Inn at Culverhouse Cross, also drew more than 100 entries."

The winner of the Beech Tree competition was Glynis Lewis, from Rhoose Point, who told The GEM:

"I'm delighted – I never win anything – until now that is!"

SPORTING ICON COLIN MEETS HIS HEROES!

REVIEW by PHILIP IRWIN

THE former world record holder for the 110-metre hurdles, Colin Jackson, has always had strong connections with the Vale and, as The GEM reported recently, he has just written his first book on athletics.

It was launched last Friday in Cowbridge, and profits from the venture are going to the 'Moses Project' – an educational project linking Ysgol Iolo Morganwg in Cowbridge with a Masai community in Kenya.

Now, some charity books are thrown together in a hurry, and can be pretty slim volumes, so the most important thing to get across is that this book, entitled *My Sporting Icons*, is a substantial piece of work, featuring thorough interviews with 12 great sporting figures – all athletes.

Sports fans, particularly those interested in the psychology of competition, will find plenty to ponder, not least because Colin Jackson has an analytical mind and he wants to compare his own thought processes under pressure with others who were at the top of their game.

Among the 12 are David Hemery, Fatima Whitbread, Don Quarrie, Daley Thompson, Kriss Akabusi (it's hard to stop him talking!) and Oscar Pastorius, and all have plenty to say.

Every conversation brings up something unexpected. He and Sally Gunnell compare the various injuries that they picked up, and I was certainly unaware that Jackson had needed seven knee operations during his career – and they worry about rugby players getting injured at the moment!

The book launch was in Oscars in Cowbridge, and when I arrived, Colin Jackson was nowhere to be seen.

It turned out that he had been hijacked by *Strictly Come Dancing* fans, asking for his thoughts on who would win this year.

For the record, he was undecided, but correctly predicted that Gavin Henson had gone as far as he could.

He still looks disgustingly fit and, when I asked if any of his sporting icons had 'gone to seed' he thought long and hard and said "none".

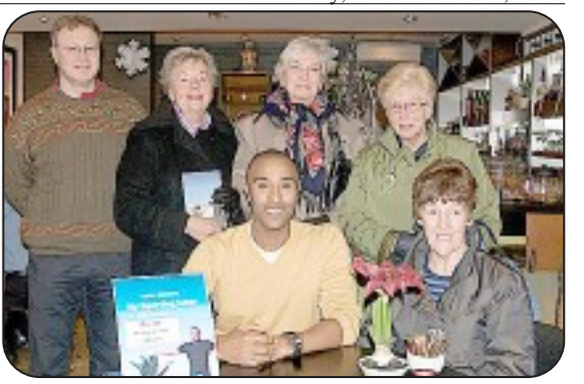
Apparently, David Hemery and Don Quarrie still weigh the same as when they were in their prime, while Fatima Whitbread has shed all the muscle that she needed for javelin throwing.

Many of them are still competing – Steve Backley on rowing machines, and Sally Gunnell over 10k races.

Whether you are an aspiring athlete or an armchair sports fan, you will find things to surprise or enlighten you..

A good cause - and a good Christmas read!

My Sporting Icons is published by Red Shoes Productions Ltd and is on sale at local bookshops and is due to be listed by Amazon.



Colin Jackson, pictured at his book launch with some of his Cowbridge fans! (Photograph by Aliye Mullen).

Island access: call for risk assessment

AS you reported, the road to Barry Island was closed for several hours on Saturday, November 20 and again on Thursday, December 2.

I was travelling by bus on December 2, and the passengers were set down by the Ship Hotel.

This was an inconvenience to me and the other passengers, as we had to walk across to the Island in cold, falling snow – but I realise that Cardiff Bus were doing their best to keep a service running.

As we walked by the accident site, all the emergency services were hard at work doing a difficult job in very upsetting circumstances.

My understanding is that when the gates were placed on Battery Hill, the Island residents were promised by ABP that in an emergency, these gates would be opened to provide access.

I believe there should be a risk assessment, led by the Vale Council, who should invite representatives of Island residents and traders, the emergency services, Cardiff Bus and APB to look at ways of reducing the risks and inconvenience caused to Island residents, traders and visitors in similar situations.

Bob Bowyer,
Barry Island

School choir sings

BRAINT ac anrhydedd oedd derbyn gwahoddiad o swyddogion Ysbyty Barri i ganu i'r Aelod y Cynulliad Jane Hutt ar yr 13 Rhagfyr. Roedd Mrs Hutt, y gweinidog dros Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol Cynulliad Cymru, yn ymweld â'r ysbyty a'i chleifion. Diolchodd Mrs Hutt, i'r plant am eu canu swynol.

It was with great pleasure that the choir from Ysgol Gymraeg Sant Baruc accepted the request from officials in Barry Hospital to sing for the Assembly Minister Jane Hutt on Monday, December 13.

Mrs Hutt, the Minister for Education, Children and Young People at the Welsh Assembly Government was visiting the hospital and patients. She commented on the children's excellent singing voices.

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Auction helps out the YFC!

PHOTOGRAPH by HEATHER MARCH

WICK Young Farmers Club's coffers were boosted by an auction held at Colwinston Hall.

Amid much hilarity, auctioneer Hopkin Joseph of Watts and Morgan sold items kindly donated by sponsors. Club chairman Howy Evans had a busy evening acting as porter.

Police 'Operation Blitzen' aims to make town safer

'OPERATION BLITZEN' saw the start of a Christmas campaign for a safer Bridgend by South Wales Police.

A spokesman reported that it has already proved to be effective with four people arrested in its first few days.

Among these was a 36-year-old man from the Bridgend area who was arrested on suspicion of the theft of a purse within minutes of the offence being committed.

A 25-year-old man from Porthcawl and a 27-year-old woman from Bridgend were both arrested on suspicion of the theft of a charity collection box – again within a short time of the offence being committed.

"The aim of the campaign in Bridgend town centre is to provide reassurance and a friendly face for all those who are visiting the town centre during the day time, whether shopping, working or going out for a celebratory lunch.

"Neighbourhood Police Officers will be carrying out high visibility foot patrols in the main shopping areas in order to increase public reassurance, provide added support to retailers and to deter potential offenders," he said.

Bridgend Neighbourhood Police Sergeant Chris Truscott, said: "I want to reassure everyone who visits Bridgend in the build up to Christmas – whether they are a visitor, shopper or a trader – that we will be aiming to ensure that the Neighbourhood Policing Team is visible and on patrol at times when they will be most effective and when they are most needed."

SOUTHERNDOWN WI NEWS

Christmas carols and a testing Eggheads quiz!

SoutherndownWI members met on a cold, icy night for the last meeting of 2010, when numbers were small but the hall was warm and welcoming!

President Rhiannon Gaen greeted everyone and kept business to a minimum, before she presented members with a quiz, which included questions from the TV show *Eggheads*.

Southerndown may not have excelled but it did pass with credit. Health and safety rules were brought to attention, courtesy of a modern interpretation of Christmas carols.

A lucky dip exchange of presents took place and party fare was supplied by the committee – mulled wine was on offer! Thanks to all concerned.

Before the close, the president read out the six resolutions for 2011 (only one vote per individual). This appeared to give some members too much choice but after some recounts, a conclusion was reached.

Did the coalition at Westminster have such problems a few hours earlier over student tuition fees?

The New Year lunch will take place at Southerndown golf club on January 20. Next monthly meeting is on January 13, 2011, at 7.15pm in St Brides Major church hall.

No speaker is booked, so members are invited to speak for themselves!

BM

PLEA FOR NEW OWNERS AS CAT CRISIS HITS BRIDGEND

THE GEM reported recently that the Cat Protection League cattery in Bryncethin was full with 215 cats in residence, and a waiting list of twice that many who will be taken in as and when space become available.

Now, a small local animal charity has reported that it is also struggling to cope with the number of cats it has.

Maesteg Animal Welfare Society has two catteries which between them have 50 cats and kittens. In its last financial year, the charity spent £38,000 looking after and rehoming hundreds of cats. At one time, it had as many as 70 cats on its books.

"We had cats up to our ears," said co-ordinator Maureen Edwards. "We have had to cut back from that simply because of the expense. It was costing us £140 a day, seven days a week and the bills soon mount up, especially as we neuter all males and often have to pay for veterinary treatment for them as well."

The charity is appealing for new owners to come forward to give homes to some of the cats it has.

"All our cats are young, healthy adults," she said. "We have them in all sizes and colours – a bit like that lady in the old BT adverts who wanted a new dress. There should be something to suit everyone."

Mrs Edwards said that if people could not offer a home themselves, the charity would be grateful to accept sponsorship or donations towards the cost of keeping the cats.

"If we can get a cat paid for, it means we can afford to take in another one. We still have a little space available, but our problem is having the necessary funding.

"We also take in dogs for re-homing and help people with vets' bills, so our resources are fully stretched."

In all, the charity spent £83,000 last year, including the overheads on its two shops in Maesteg and Nantymoel which raise almost all the money it needs to survive. The shops are manned entirely by volunteers and the society has no paid staff.

Maureen added that the society was doing its best to plug the gap left by CPL which cannot cope with any more cats.

"The situation is desperate. This cold weather means that stray cats, who normally fend for themselves, are now trying to get homes by turning up on people's doorsteps.

"Sometimes, people will take them in and keep them but often they are unable to and that's where we come in."

Anyone able to take one of the society's cats or offer sponsorship should ring Jan on 01656 721496.

COMMUNITY NEWS
ST BRIDES MAJOR

Your local correspondent is
Patricia Bevan-Morgan
(01656) 880418

CONGRATULATIONS to Gavin Henson, our local boy, on reaching the semi-finals in *Strictly Come Dancing* and we now look forward to seeing him once again on the rugby field. Well done, Gav!

ST BRIDES MAJOR Church in Wales Primary School held its Christmas concerts this past week.

A very professional show it was, from the three classes of the school, and the costumes were superb. Parents and staff must have worked hard to achieve three successful evenings.

FRIENDS of the Heritage Coast held their annual A–Z raffle at the centre on December 5.

It was very successful, followed by mince pies and a much appreciated cup of coffee and tea on a cold afternoon.

THE Poppy collection this year made a total of £673, a fine effort. Thank you to the organiser and all who gave so generously.

THE Saturday morning 'tea and chat' held their annual lunch at the Fox and Hounds on December 4, and lots of photographs were taken.

The raffle of a lovely basket of Christmas goodies was won by the oldest member of the party, Iris Lingern.

FOR the first time for a number of years, a Christmas tree has been erected on Bull Hill, St Brides Major (near the monument). It is hoped (weather permitting), to sing carols around the tree, before going on to the Fox and Hounds for a hot curry.

A HAPPY Christmas and peaceful New Year to the staff and readers of The GEM.

Wick gets together to talk about the management of Monks Wood

A VERY successful, productive and well-attended meeting of people interested in Monks Wood was held on Friday, November 19, at the Sports Pavilion, Wick.

It was held on the 10th anniversary of the planting of Monks Wood by Wick villagers, and involved a representative from the Woodland Trust, who own and manage the wood.

The meeting discussed the future development and management of the Wood.

It is possible that money might be available to improve the pond to ensure that it holds water all year and attracts more wildlife.

Wick School is interested in the wood and educational resources may be available. Local villagers and other people are encouraged to plant trees in the wood.

It may be possible for the road entrance to the wood to be made more disability-friendly.

If you would like to be kept up to date with the development of the wood, please contact 01656 890386.

The meeting was part-funded by Wick Community Council and we are very grateful for their support.

GEORGE JEFFERY

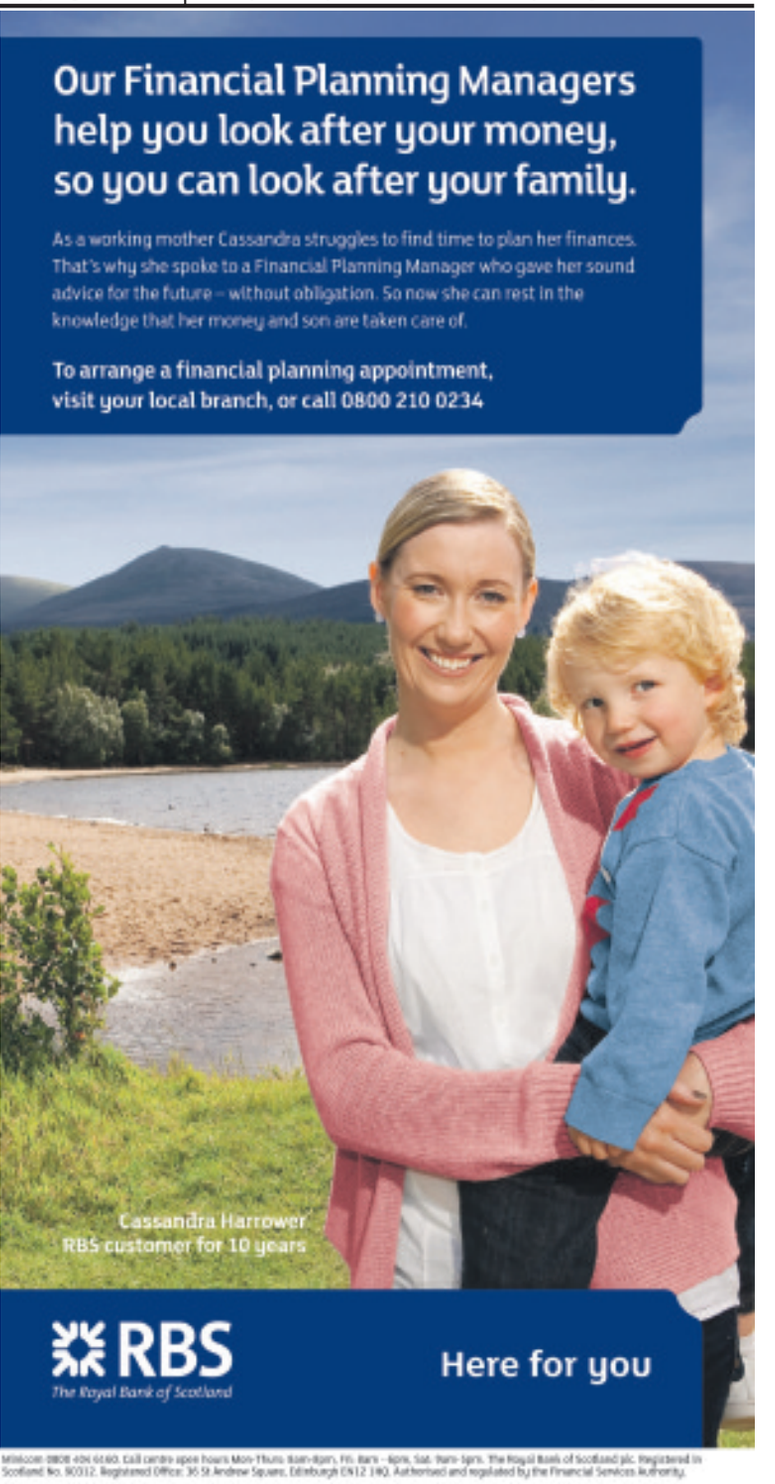
Lottery cash goes to Parc

PARC prison, Bridgend has been awarded £48,918 Lottery funding to develop its 'Invisible Walls' project, which works with offenders and their families to help prevent re-offending.

The money will fund a development plan and voluntary, statutory and private sector partnerships. The scheme includes advice about family debt, training and education, housing advice and support, employment and physical health and fitness.

John Rose, Acting Wales Director for BIG, explained: "On average, it costs £50,000 to keep a male offender for a year in a local prison and an estimated 60 per cent will go on to reoffend within a year of release.

"The Parc pilot will see intensive support provided to prisoners and their families both inside prison and after release to help with resettlement and to curb the destructive cycle of reoffending."



GIVING OUR WELSH DISABLED PEOPLE A VOICE WITH 'WORDS'

DURING a celebration of the international day of disabled people in the Senedd, Plaid AM Chris Franks, who gave a keynote speech, met Mandy Glover from St Nicholas.

Plaid AM Chris Franks with Mandy Glover of St Nicholas.

She was among a group of disabled people and campaigners from across Wales who took part in the celebration.

Mr Franks said: "It was a privilege to help launch the 'Words to Wales' project on the International Day of Disabled People and during the first UK Disability History Month.

"The 'Words to Wales' scheme is about disabled people writing about their lives and finding their voice.

"I was particularly moved by a story from a woman about her husband's severe stroke and its aftermath. As the Plaid member on the all party group on strokes in the Assembly and my own family experience of strokes, this is an important eye witness account of the difficulty faced by stroke survivors and their families.

"Everybody living in Wales will be given their voice on March 3, when we have a referendum on powers for Wales. In these challenging times it is important we remain as ambitious as the Words to Wales project."

After speeches and readings from disabled people,Plaid AM Chris Franks was questioned about ensuring better access to polling stations for disabled people.

He has written to the Electoral Commission and the Assembly Commission for assurances to ensure better access so people can vote.

Breakthrough group tours breast centre at Llandough

PAM ALLINSON and Rene Gannon, from the breast cancer campaigning group, Breakthrough, and the Vale AM, Jane Hutt, were recently given a tour of the new breast centre for Cardiff and Vale, at University Hospital Llandough, by consultants Mr Sumit Goyal and Dr Philippa Young.

Afterwards, the AM commented: "With a wide range of brand new facilities and state-of-the-art new equipment, the breast centre at Llandough is a centre of excellence for Wales, meeting the needs of patients with personalised care, treatment and care from the dedicated team of doctors and nurses.

"I was so impressed with the investment, commitment and highly skilled staff who are delivering a first class service with ambitions for further developments which are all commendable."

Free breast screening test

MORE than 6,000 women will be offered a free, potentially life-saving screening test, when Breast Test Wales brings its mobile screening unit to the area in January.

Sited at the Memorial Hall, Barry, the unit will offer free, high-quality breast screening by invitation only, to women aged 50 and above who are registered with local GP surgeries.

All women aged between 50 and 70 should automatically receive a postal invitation over the next few months if they are registered with the following GP surgeries: The Vale Family Practice, Ravenscourt Surgery, and West Quay Medical Centre.

Women over 70 will not receive an automatic invitation, but can be screened on request by telephoning Breast Test Wales on 029 2039 7222 to make an appointment.

For further information about breast screening, visit the Breast Test Wales website at: www.screeningservices.org.uk/btw

ABOVE: Mayor of the Vale of Glamorgan Coun Colin Osborne and his wife Ruby with representatives from the Vale of Glamorgan Referees' Society.

Vale referees honoured with town hall reception

THE Vale Mayor and Mayoress, Coun Colin Osborne and his wife Ruby, hosted a reception at the Town Hall for members of the Vale of Glamorgan Referees' Society.

The mayor said he was pleased to accept the society's offer to be a patron of the society for the current year.

For more information on the referees' society, visit their website at www.footballreferee.org/web/VoGRS.

NEWS FROM FONMON APIARY

The bees are nicely tucked in for winter!

WINTER is most definitely here, and the bees that were removed last month from the drain (Penarth) are now ensconced in Dyffryn Apiary which will hopefully see them survive the winter.

As for the bees, which had set up home in a large beech tree (St Mellons area) try as we might, their removal proved to be too difficult; much of the tree was hollow, hence the contractors being called in to deal with it and our efforts were all in vain.

To allow the contractors to get on with their task, it was decided (by me) to kill the bees. This was achieved by soaking a hessian sack in petrol, putting it into the space occupied by the bees and sealing it with towels, and we then left the contractors to get on with the tree removal.

A useful tool to have here would have been a Bee-Vac. I do not possess such an item, but I do intend to make one for such occasions in the future.

In essence, it is a domestic Hoover attached to a collecting box and this can gently assist to remove bees from such awkward areas (more on this at a later date).

This cold spell is just what we required to allow for the movement of two hives from a fruit farm site to the apiary at St Fagans, using straps to contain the hive and floor as one unit. The hives were loaded into the car in the late afternoon (3.30pm) then transported, not without incident to their destination.

Having to negotiate roads with 'sleeping policemen' set in them, one of the hives moved just a little, but enough to allow some bees to emerge and gather on the rear window of the car – they were clustered on the hive by the time we reached our goal so moving them was not too complicated.

Being late afternoon and very cold certainly helped here. There are now four viable hives on site at St Fagans.

Several hives at each of the apiaries have mite trays inserted under their floors and on examination of the debris that they will eventually contain, some idea of the welfare of the inhabitants can be gained; plus dead mites will be found and a strategy for their future control can be put into effect.

Now that work on the apiary hives has slackened, preparation for next year is well under way. All queen excluders have been cleaned, smoker is clean, supers with frames (drawn) have been treated with acetic acid and aired, frames sorted and some disposed of, while many have been gone over with a blow-torch which will sort out any trace of Wax-Moths.

More equipment will have to be purchased as I now have nine hives on site at Fonmon, thanks to the swarms taken this year.

All in all, the bees have fared much better this year; the variable weather kept the honey crop down but at least some was obtained.

As ever, the Varroa mite is still with us and will be for some time yet. In the latter part of January next year there is to be a symposium at Worcester University, where the Varroa and its effect upon the bee population throughout the world and, of course, its treatment, will be discussed by those that are carrying out various research programmes.

I will be attending this gathering and hope to improve my knowledge and future control strategy for this major parasite.

So Barbara and I will be looking after bees at Fonmon, St Fagans, Dyffryn Gardens and, of course, helping out those who wish to start beekeeping.

HAROLD WILLIAMS

Ty Hafan winners

THE following are winning numbers in the Ty Hafan Crackerjackpot lottery draw number D648.

- **£2,000:** 741014.
- **The rollover, which now stands at £7,000, was not won this week.**
- **£10:** 1 3 3 1 0 7 , 529220, 549863, 657854, 823860, 167441, 276239, 356224, 607626, 265583, 221699, 141690, 655349, 808568, 354499, 210259, 208559, 440631, 432206,111097.
- **£5:** 470647, 371802, 710232, 745831, 574697, 554850, 321233, 458744, 118284, 562335, 417628, 594449, 855631, 316947, 859828, 415866, 859723, 291735, 667811, 663263, 265277, 140724, 850672, 803991, 365001, 146309, 330651, 385143, 556759, 531022, 184678, 182152, 305063, 495123, 781503, 853078, 136555, 593373, 524816, 435868, 381440, 724245, 536072, 372595, 510276, 476062, 723828, 180485, 370698, 560365, 729230, 641077, 895244, 341508, 226222, 416104, 136738, 209819, 469743, 132549.

The GEM cannot be held responsible for any errors or omissions contained in the above.

For lottery information please call telephone 02920 672062.

TUDOR LANDS ROYAL WINNER

COWBRIDGE'S James Tudor rode his first winner of the 2010/11 point-to-point season when scoring on Alan Hill's *Start Royal* in the men's open race at the Cambridge University United Hunts meeting at Cottenham on Sunday.

Start Royal, owned and trained by Alan Hill, was well backed at 5-4 in a field of just five runners.

Red Watch, a nine-year-old brown gelding owned and trained by Luke Price, and qualified with the Taf Fechan Hunt, took the restricted race at the Cornwall Hunt Club meeting at Wadebridge under Wales's Jodie Hughes.

Red Watch went off the 9-4 favourite.

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Out and About with The GEM

Choir and band join in the festive spirit at annual concert

THE Barry Male Voice Choir and RAF St Athan Voluntary Band, together with a large and enthusiastic congregation, provided a fitting welcome to the spirit of Christmas at the choir's annual Christmas concert held at St Mary's Church, Barry, on December 4.

ABOVE: Barry Male Voice Choir.

Invited guests included Jane Hutt AM, Alun Cairns MP, Mr and Mrs Colin Osborne, the Mayor and Mayoress of the Vale and Mr Karl Kuhnell, Mayor of Barry with his consort, Mrs Meryl Kuhnell.

This year's fundraising concert was in aid of Barnardo's Cymru, whose representative, Iris Williams, gave a moving account of the vital support still needed by many young people in the community whose lives and opportunities were very limited.

The RAF Voluntary Band, conducted by Alan Bourne, provided a varied high quality recital, which was enjoyed immensely by all.

The Barry Male Voice Choir, inspired by musical director Dorothy Connell, and accompanied by the talented Emma Arscott, performed with feeling and control.

As well as traditional carols and more modern songs, the band and choir combined in a memorable emotional rendition of 'Benedictus' from the *Armed Man*, a mass for peace composed by Carl Jenkins.

The choir continue their fundraising in the community with a full programme of concerts before Christmas. On Monday, December 20, they will be singing with the audience at Wetherspoon's Sir Samuel Romilly.

The choir will restart practice on Thursday, January 6, at Holy Trinity Church Hall Trinity Street, Barry, where anyone interested in joining will be made very welcome.

Practices are held on Mondays and Thursdays at 7.30pm.

RK

Voluntary band in full swing for Christmas

AFTER performances in St Athan, Bridgend, Wick, Penarth, Llantwit Major, Barry and Cowbridge, RAF St Athan Voluntary Band are in full swing as they head towards Saturday's Family Christmas concert at Llantwit Major Comprehensive School Hall at 2.30pm.

Joining the band will be Wendy Kupinsky (soprano), Alison Jones (flute) and Sian Pickett (narrator). There'll be carols, readings, instrumental pieces, sing-a-long items as well as the best of the band's extensive Christmas repertoire.

Tickets are £5 (under-14s admitted free) and available from Chris Davies Estate Agent, Llantwit Major, or telephone 01446 798527.

The band will also be performing at St Tathan Church tomorrow (Friday, December 17) at 7.30pm and at the Four Bells, St Athan this Sunday, from 8pm.

The Youth Band will be supporting carol singing at the Gathering Place on Monday, December 20, at 6pm. Everyone is very welcome at all these events.

"RAF St Athan Voluntary Band would like to thank all who supported their Christmas events, and would like to wish everyone a very happy Christmas and health, success and happiness for 2011," said director Alan Bourne.

WHAT'S ON – *in brief*

Rotary sleigh

SANTA and his helpers join the Dinas Powys Rotary Club this weekend.

December 17; 6pm-7.30pm, Southra Sunnycroft.

December 18; 4pm-6.30pm, Murch Valley View.

December 19; 4pm-6.30pm, Eastbrook Millbrook Heights.

December 20; 6pm-7.30pm, Sully.

Christingle at St Paul's

A CHRISTINGLE service, this Sunday (December 19) at 4pm, for families and children, heralds the coming of Christmas at the Barry church of St Paul's.

The collection taken at the service will support Welsh children in poor circumstances.

Introduced by the Children's Society 30 years ago, Christingle is now a popular family event .

Each child receives an orange, representing the world, four cocktail sticks containing fruits and sweets for the four seasons, and a lighted candle, symbolising Jesus as the light of the world.

The traditional service of carols, midnight Mass and blessing of the Christmas crib is at 11pm on Christmas Eve.

On Christmas morning, there will be carols, a procession and sung Mass at 10am. Everyone welcome.

Candlelit concert in Ewenny

THE Vale of Glamorgan Ensemble will be performing their annual Christmas concert by candlelight at the Priory Church, Ewenny tomorrow (Friday, December 17).

Music will include the Corelli *Christmas Concerto* and two pieces by Vivaldi, the *Cello Concerto in A Minor* with soloist Nicola Thomas, formerly of the London Mozart Players, and the *Four Seasons*, with WNO violinist and Ensemble leader Donald McNaught directing.

The concert starts at 7.30pm and tickets, including mulled wine and mince pies, are available at the door, or call 01656 664105.

Porthceri fayre

THE Porthceri Centre rounds off the year with a Christmas fayre this Saturday (December 18) at 2pm, which will be opened by 'local boy' Peter Karrie.

There will be plenty of opportunities to buy last-minute stocking fillers, relax with a tea, coffee and homemade cakes, and enjoy the exhibitions provided by Baruc Art Group and Positive Image Photographic Society.

Photography experts from PIPS will also be giving demonstrations throughout the afternoon of digital techniques you can easily do at home with your own photos.

To add to what promises to be an afternoon with a real buzz, well-known local belly dance group, the Desert Divas, will also be displaying their hypnotic skills.

The Porthceri Centre will look particularly festive against the backdrop of the Victorian street scene, which was used for the recent smash hit Pukka show *Little Match Girl.*

Lucky winners!

THERE were four lucky winners of The GEM's competition run on December 2 with Skin Studio of Penarth.

The winners, who each win a £50 voucher to spend in the studio, are: Mrs P Williams of Bridgend; Mrs SB Mace of Llanbethery; Ceri James of Barry; and Vera Morgans of Penarth.

VICTORIAN CHRISTMAS

BRYNGARW Country Park, has a hectic festive diary with Father Christmas, storytelling, live music and Christmas carols.

On December 18-19 from 10am-5pm, there is a selection of Victorian fairground rides, gift and craft stalls, a carousel, swing boats, coconut shy, traditional hot chestnuts, mulled wine, live music from Solid Brass, barrel organ and mince pies. There will also be a special visit from Father Christmas from 12pm-2pm.

Actors in Victorian costumes will tell the story of a Victorian Christmas; playing different characters, from a servant to the lady of the house, as they prepare for the festive season.

Admission and car parking is free, there will be a charge for rides and stall items. For further details call 01656 725155 or email: bryngarwpark@bridgend.gov.uk

On December 21, enjoy outdoor traditional Christmas carols on the lawn in front of Bryngarw House at 8pm, accompanied by Solid Brass. Free admission and car parking.

THE RECTORIAL BENEFICE OF LLANTWIT MAJOR

Llantwit Major, St Donats, Wick, Marcross, Monknash, Llanmaes, Llanmihangel, St Athan & Gileston

wishes you a blessed Christmas and joyful New Year

All are warmly welcome at any of our services this Christmas

CHRISTMAS EVE

St Illtud's, Llantwit Major	16.00pm	Crib Service
St James, Wick	18.00pm	Christingle Service
St Illtud's, Llantwit Major	18.30pm	Ecumenical Carols
St Illtud's, Llantwit Major	23.15pm	Midnight Eucharist
St Cattwg, Llanmaes	23.30pm	Midnight Eucharist
St Mary, Monknash	23.30pm	Midnight Eucharist
St Tathan, St Athan	23.30pm	Midnight Eucharist

CHRISTMAS DAY

St Illtud's, Llantwit Major	8.15am	Eucharist
St Giles, Gileston	8.30am	Eucharist
St Donat	9.30am	Eucharist
Holy Trinity, Marcross	9.30am	Eucharist
St Michael, Llanmihangel	10.00am	Communion
St James, Wick	10.30am	Eucharist
St Tathan, St Athan	10.30am	Family Eucharist
St Illtud, Llantwit Major	10.30am	Family Eucharist

Who's looking after the animals this Christmas?

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Gyrfa Cymru Careers Wales Cardiff and Vale

Developing people through lifelong career planning

Looking for advice on learning and careers? We can help, whatever your age or situation

Careers Wales Cardiff and Vale is responsible for the delivery of:

- The statutory Careers Service (Youth Guidance Services), Youth Gateway and Education Gateway
- Cardiff and Vale Education Business Partnership (EBP)
- Adult Guidance Services
- The Learning and Careers Advice helpline in Wales

Careers Wales

Here to help you!

Work taster scheme helps employers recruit

Chef Tony Jenkins (left) with Keri Cash (centre) and Daniel Dredge (right), employees at Chef's Kitchen following their successful work taster placements.

An initiative developed by Careers Wales Cardiff and Vale is helping employers recruit young people not in education, employment or training. The Work Taster Scheme provides employers with the opportunity to assess a candidate's suitability over a two week period before committing to a full time contract.

Employment adviser, Adrian Cole, explained: **"The Work Taster Scheme enables young people to prove their potential to employers. It also gives employers time to decide whether a person is suited to the job on offer. During the placement the young person is paid an allowance from Careers Wales Cardiff and Vale."**

Work tasters proved a great success for Keri Cash and Daniel Dredge, both of Cardiff, who secured full time jobs with Chef's Sandwich, a company supplying sandwiches, wraps and salads to local coffee shops, bars and restaurants.

Keri and Daniel had both found it difficult to find work and turned to Careers Wales for help. After two week placements at Chef's Sandwich they were both offered full time employment.

Chef Tony Jenkins, owner of the business, said: **"Keri and Daniel were able to demonstrate their interest and commitment to the company during the work taster and we were very pleased to offer them employment. The Work Taster Scheme is an excellent way for young people to find out whether a job suits them and for employers to fill vacancies which become available."**

Careers advice leads to new business

Donna Ovenstone, a working mum of four, contacted Careers Wales last year to discuss a change of career. Following a discussion with information assistant Judith Elliott – Butcher and an interview with careers adviser Gill Evans, Donna successfully applied for the HND course in Beauty and Spa Management at Coleg Morgannwg in Pontypridd.

Donna is now in her second year of the course after passing the first year with flying colours. She has also recently started her own beauty business called Kardia Beauty at X-Cell Hair Company in Morganstown, Cardiff.

Donna said: **"I'd like to thank Judith and Gill for the help they gave me. Without their advice none of this would have happened."**

Improvements to our services

- During 2010 we refurbished our Careers Centre at 53 Charles Street, Cardiff to provide more interviewing space and improve the reception area for customers.
- We have re-organised our teams to ensure a more co-ordinated system for customers accessing our services.
- We are continuing to develop a multi-agency approach to supporting young people not in education, employment or training by hosting a mental health services worker from the Health Service, counsellors from Action for Children, housing officers from Housing Options (Cardiff Council and Housing Associations) and a member of staff from Cardiff Council Social Care Services at our Youth Gateway Centre in Cardiff.

Check out our website **www.careerswales.com**

If you want to talk to an adviser you can call our national Learning and Careers Advice helpline 0800 900 100 (if calling from a mobile please telephone 029 2090 6801)

If you want to speak to an adviser face to face you can drop in or phone to make an appointment at one of our centres.

Careers Centre, 53 Charles Street, Cardiff CF10 2GD
Tel: 029 2090 6700

Careers Centre, 49 Holton Road, Barry CF63 4HF
Tel: 01446 410600

Young people in full time education can arrange to see their careers adviser at their school or college.

Careers Advice

If you want to talk to an adviser you can call our national **Learning and Careers Advice helpline** 0800 100 900 (if calling from a mobile please telephone 029 2090 6801)

0800 100 900

Pupils from St Cuthbert's RC Primary School, Cardiff find out more about construction engineering at Cardiff Bay.

All aboard for a lesson with a difference

Nearly 800 Year 6 pupils from local primary schools recently took time out to find out more about the regeneration of Cardiff Bay.

Co-ordinated by the EBP, the pupils enjoyed a guided tour on the Water Bus to view the Barrage and the buildings, old and new, around the Bay. During the trip the pupils were given a presentation, including contributions by representatives from local construction engineering companies including Dean and Dyball, BAM Nuttall, Carillion Civil Engineering, ERH Communications, Alun Griffiths Contractors Ltd, Britannia Construction Ltd, Raymond Brown and Walters UK Ltd. The pupils also complete work sheets during the tour and their teachers build on what they have learnt with further activities back in the classroom.

The positive impact of this activity is evidenced from teachers' comments including: ''it opened the eyes of pupils, especially girls, to the possibility of working in the construction industry" and "good science materials link for the classroom.''

Redundancy offers new opportunity

Redundancy for gas service engineer David Fulton provided him with the opportunity to achieve his goal of setting up his own business.

Having previously worked in the security industry, David saw a gap in the market and the idea of Glamorgan Guard Dogs was born. David had heard about ReAct funding, a scheme set up by the Welsh Assembly Government to help retrain individuals who are newly redundant and he contacted Careers Wales for help.

Careers adviser William McCarthy informed him of a course available with R and S Training in Welshpool in general purpose security dog handling. He also received information about becoming self employed.

David said: "Following the training I was able to set up my own business and so far it's going very well. We have undertaken security work at various events including the Royal Welsh Show and the Ryder Cup. I've also recently agreed a contract with a haulage company."

AMs visit Careers Wales

Local Assembly Members from all parties were recently invited to the Careers Centres in Cardiff and Barry to update their knowledge about the role of Careers Wales in helping young people and adults achieve their potential.

Jane Hutt, AM for the Vale of Glamorgan and Minister for Budget and Business, visited the Careers Centre and Youth Gateway Centre in Barry. Writing in the Glamorgan Gem she said: "I was privileged to meet some of the young people who were now enjoying steady employment or succeeding in college. They were motivated and they said the one to one support they received at the Gateway was pivotal in making the breakthrough in their lives.

"I also met a group of adults who had been made redundant, with the impact of the recession all too clear. They were all making their way into new careers and jobs and were highly complimentary about the impact of Careers Wales engagement."

Careers Wales Cardiff and Vale wins awards

- For the second year running Careers Wales Cardiff and Vale received an award from Cardiff Leaving Care for the company's commitment to supporting young people who have spent time in care.
- Careers advisers Mike Davies and Barbara Price received Partner of Excellence Awards from Jobcentre Plus for the support they offer customers alongside Jobcentre Plus staff in Cardiff, Penarth and Barry.
- Careers Wales Cardiff and Vale recently achieved the Investors in People (IIP) Silver Award along with the IIP Leadership and Management Award.

We value your opinions. If you have any questions, comments or suggestions about our services please contact:

Avril Jackson, Marketing manager, Careers Wales Cardiff and Vale, 53 Charles Street, Cardiff CF10 2GD Tel: 029 2090 6700 or email avril.jackson@cardiffandvale.org.uk

Careers Wales is funded by the Welsh Assembly Government. The cost of our services for the year 1st April 2009 – 31st March 2010 was approximately £2.79 per month per household in Cardiff and the Vale of Glamorgan.

Gyrfa Cymru Careers Wales

How we did in 2009/2010

Support for students in secondary and further education in Cardiff and the Vale of Glamorgan		Achievement	% against target
Interviews.		15,412	120%
Moving Forward Plans.		11,528	105%
Group sessions.		2,005	100%
Young people taking part in Education Gateway, a motivational programme for 14-16 year olds and young people in college.		688	108%
Young people receiving mentoring support from Education Gateway advisers.	Interviews Group sessions	2,255 904	133% 105%
Work with young people with a Statement of Special Educational Need.	Interviews Transition Reviews Moving Forward Plans Learning and Skills Plans Group sessions	1,050 552 832 172 48	153% 106% 103% 115% 120%
Number of young people who received support for an education business activity.	Primary schools Secondary schools	21,925 29,740	N/A 100%
Number of work experience placements arranged.	14-16 year olds 16-19 year olds	5,942 1,027	N/A N/A
Number of young people taking part in business and enterprise.	12-16 year olds 16-19 year olds	8,276 2,146	N/A N/A
Number of young people receiving employer support for mentoring and individual goal setting.		1,862	N/A
Number of young people involved in setting up small business projects with employer support.	12-19 year olds	5,505	N/A
Number of young people participating in employer supported curriculum delivery/development activities.		23,290	N/A

Support for schools and colleges

Careers Wales Cardiff and Vale works closely with teachers and lecturers to ensure pupils and students receive high quality careers education and guidance. During the year 35 training events were organised involving 173 teachers and associated staff. In addition 413 primary and secondary school teachers and college lecturers were helped to find placements with employers: 99.5% against target.

Support for parents and guardians Surveys have found that parents and carers are the biggest influence on the career decisions of their children.

Discussions with parents.	3,301	N/A
Parents evenings attended.	190	N/A
Mailings to parents of students in Years 7, 9, 10, 11 & 12.	28,766	N/A

Support for young people who have left full time education

Interviews by careers advisers at our Centres.	2,725	113%
Interviews by careers advisers with young people with a Statement of Special Educational Need.	304	N/A
Interviews by placing assistants.	3,619	100%
Written outcomes of guidance.	3,086	251%
Number of young people placed in Youth Gateway.	536	97%
Number of young people placed into employment.	283	N/A
Number of young people placed into work-based training.	1,648	N/A
Interviews with young people on Youth Gateway.	5,820	110%
Moving Forward Plans for young people on Youth Gateway.	1,041	99%
Group sessions for young people on Youth Gateway.	4,807	93%

Youth Gateway is run by Careers Wales Cardiff and Vale and provides extra help for young people who are unsure what to do after leaving school or college or who are finding it difficult to find the right opportunity.

In addition the Cardiff Learning Coach Team, funded by Cymorth Cymru and Cardiff 16-19 Network is based at Cardiff Youth Gateway. Careers advisers and youth workers have been trained as Learning Coaches to help hardest to reach 16-18 year olds access education, training and employment.

Careers advisers are also based with the Youth Offending Services in Cardiff and the Vale to help young people who have offended engage in education, training or employment.

Support for adults

Interviews by careers advisers	6,550	114%
Of which: Adults interviewed who were unemployed.	2,313	N/A
Adults interviewed under notice of redundancy, including those supported under ReAct.	2,453	N/A
Interviews by information assistants.	3,106	104%
Written outcomes of guidance.	7,316	105%
Group sessions.	115	115%

Learning and Careers Advice national helpline 0800 100 900

Last year 35,041 calls and 1,407 emails to the helpline were received from across Wales.

Working with employers

Visits to employers.	1,447	82%
Job vacancies notified.	546	N/A
Employers supporting education business activities.	3,521	128%

Gyrfa Cymru Careers Wales

Caerdydd a'r Fro

Datblygu pobl drwy gynllunio gyrfa gydol oes

Ydych chi'n edrych am gyngor ar ddysgu a gyrfaoedd? Medrwn helpu, beth bynnag yw'ch oedran neu sefyllfa

Mae Gyrfa Cymru Caerdydd a'r Fro yn gyfrifol am ddarparu:

- Y Gwasanaeth Gyrfaoedd statudol (Gwasanaethau Arweiniad Ieuenctid), Porth Ieuenctid a Porth Addysg
- Partneriaeth Addysg Busnes Caerdydd a'r Fro (PAB)
- Gwasanaethau Arweiniad Oedolion
- Llinell Gymorth Cyngor Dysgu a Gyrfaoedd yng Nghymru

Gyrfa Cymru
Yma i'ch helpu!

Cynllun blasu swyddi yn helpu cyflogwyr i recriwtio

Y chef Tony Jenkins (chwith) gyda Keri Cash (canol) a Daniel Dredge (ar y dde), a gyflogir yn Chef's Kitchen yn dilyn eu lleoliadau blasu gwaith llwyddiannus.

Mae cynllun a ddatblygwyd gan Gyrfa Cymru Caerdydd a'r Fro yn helpu cyflogwyr i recriwtio pobl ifanc heb fod mewn addysg, cyflogaeth na hyfforddiant. Mae'r Cynllun Blasu Gwaith yn rhoi cyfle i gyflogwyr asesu os yw ymgeisydd yn addas dros gyfnod o ddwy wythnos cyn ymrwymo i gontract amser-llawn.

Esboniodd Adrian Cole, cynghorydd Cyflogaeth: **"Mae'r Cynllun Blasu Gwaith yn galluogi pobl ifanc i brofi eu potensial i gyflogwyr. Mae hefyd yn rhoi amser i gyflogwyr benderfynu os yw person yn addas ar gyfer y swydd dan sylw. Yn ystod y lleoliad mae'r person ifanc yn derbyn lwfans gan Gyrfa Cymru Caerdydd a'r Fro."**

Bu cyfleoedd blasu gwaith yn llwyddiannus iawn i Keri Cash a Daniel Dredge, ill dau o Gaerdydd, a sicrhaodd swyddi llawn-amser gyda Chef's Sandwich, cwmni sy'n cyflenwi brechdanau, rapiau a salads i siopau coffi, bariau a bwytai lleol.

Roedd Keri a Daniel wedi'i chael yn anodd dod o hyd i swydd a daethant at Gyrfa Cymru am help. Cynigiwyd cyflogaeth lawn-amser i'r ddau ohonynt ar ôl lleoliadau dwy wythnos yn Chef's Sandwich.

Dywedodd Tony Jenkins, perchennog y busnes: **"Gallodd Keri a Daniel ddangos eu diddordeb a'u hymrwymiad i'r cwmni yn ystod y cyfleoedd blasu gwaith ac roeddem yn falch iawn i gynnig swyddi iddynt. Mae'r Cynllun Blasu Gwaith yn ffordd ardderchog i bobl ifanc ganfod os yw swydd yn addas ar eu cyfer ac i gyflogwyr lenwi swyddi gwag."**

Cyngor gyrfa yn arwain at fusnes newydd

Cysylltodd Donna Ovenstone, mam i bedwar, â Gyrfa Cymru y llynedd i drafod newid gyrfa. Yn dilyn trafodaeth gyda'r cymhorthydd gwybodaeth Judith Elliott-Butcher a chyfweliad gyda'r cynghorydd gyrfaoedd, Gill Evans, gwnaeth Donna gais llwyddiannus ar gyfer y cwrs HND mewn Harddwch a Rheolaeth Sba yng Ngholeg Morgannwg ym Mhontypridd.

Mae Donna bellach yn ail flwyddyn ei chwrs ar ôl cwblhau'r flwyddyn gyntaf yn gwbl ddi-drafferth. Mae hefyd yn ddiweddar wedi sefydlu ei busnes ei hun o'r enw Kardia Beauty yn X-Cell Hair Company yn Nhreforgan, Caerdydd.

Dywedodd Donna: **"Fe fyddwn i'n hoffi diolch i Judith a Gill am eu help. Fyddai dim o hyn wedi digwydd heb eu help nhw".**

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- Rydym yn parhau i ddatblygu dull ami-asiantaeth i gefnogi pobl ifanc heb fod mewn addysg, cyflogaeth neu hyfforddiant drwy letya gweithiwr gwasanaethau iechyd meddwl o'r Gwasanaeth Iechyd, cwnselwyr o Gweithredu dros Blant, swyddogion o Opsiynau Tai (Cyngor Caerdydd a Chymdeithasau Adeiladu) ac aelod o staff Gwasanaethau Gofal Cymdeithasol Cyngor Caerdydd yn ein Canolfan Porth Ieuenctid yng Nghaerdydd.

Edrychwch ar ein gwefan **www.gyrfacymru.com**

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Ffôn: 01446 410600

Gall pobl ifanc mewn addysg amser-llawn drefnu i weld eu cynghorydd gyrfaoedd yn eu hysgol neu goleg.

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Disgyblion o Ysgol Gynradd Babyddol St Cuthbert, Caerdydd yn canfod mwy am beirianneg adeiladu ym Mae Caerdydd

Ar y bwrdd am wers gyda gwahaniaeth

Cafodd bron i 800 o ddisgyblion Blwyddyn 6 o ysgolion cynradd lleol gyfle'n ddiweddar i ganfod mwy am adfywio Bae Caerdydd.

Mwynhaodd y disgyblion daith tywys wedi'i chydlynu gan y Bartneriaeth Addysg Busnes ar y Bws Dŵr i weld y morglawdd a'r adeiladau hen a newydd o amgylch y Bae. Cafodd y disgyblion gyflwyniad yn cynnwys cyfraniadau gan gwmniau peirianneg adeiladu lleol yn cynnwys Dean and Dyball, BAM Nuttall, Carillion Civil Engineering, ERH Communications, Alun Griffiths Contractors Cyf, Britannia Construction Cyf, Raymond Brown a Walters UK Cyf. Llenwodd y disgyblion ddalenni gwaith yn ystod y daith ac mae eu hathrawon yn adeiladu ar yr hyn a ddysgwyd gyda gweithgareddau pellach yn ôl yn yr ystafell ddosbarth.

Mae effaith gadarnhaol y gweithgaredd yn amlwg o sylwadau athrawon yn cynnwys: "Fe wnaeth agor llygaid disgyblion, yn arbennig y merched, i bosibilrwydd gweithio yn y diwydiant adeiladu" a "cysylltiad deunyddiau gwyddonioeth da ar gyfer yr ystafell dosbarth."

Dileu swydd yn cynnig cyfle newydd

Pan gafodd swydd y peiriannydd gwasanaeth nwy David Fulton ei dileu, rhoddodd gyfle iddo gyflawni ei nod o sefydlu ei fusnes ei hun.

Ar ôl gweithio'n flaenorol yn y diwydiant diogelwch, gwelodd David fwlch yn y farchnad a ganwyd syniad Glamorgan Guard Dogs. Roedd David wedi clywed am gyllid ReAct, cynllun a sefydlwyd gan Lywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru i helpu ailhyfforddi unigolion y cafodd eu swyddi eu dileu a chysylltodd â Gyrfa Cymru am help. Dywedodd y cynghorydd gyrfaoedd William McCarthy wrtho am gwrs ar gael gyda R and S Training yn y Trallwng mewn trin cŵn diogelwch pwrpas cyffredinol. Cafodd wybodaeth hefyd am ddod yn hunangyflogedig.

Dywedodd David: "Medrais sefydlu fy musnes fy hun ar ôl cael yr hyfforddiant ac mae'n mynd yn dda iawn hyd yma. Rydym wedi gwneud gwaith diogelwch mewn gwahanol ddigwyddiadau yn cynnwys Sioe Frenhinol Cymru a Chwpan Ryder. Rwyf hefyd wedi cytuno'n ddiweddar ar gontract gyda chwmni cludo."

ACau yn ymweld â Gyrfa Cymru

Gwahoddwyd Aelodau Cynulliad lleol o bob plaid i Ganolfannau Gyrfaoedd yng Nghaerdydd a'r Barri yn ddiweddar i gael gwybodaeth gyfoes am rôl Gyrfa Cymru wrth helpu pobl ifanc ac oedolion i gyflawni eu potensial.

Ymwelodd Jane Hutt, AC Bro Morgannwg a Gweinidog dros y Gylideb a Busnes, â'r Ganolfan Gyrfaoedd a'r Ganolfan Porth Ieuenctid yn y Barri. Wrth ysgrifennu yn y Glamorgan Gem dywedodd: "Roedd yn fraint i mi weld rhai o'r bobl ifanc sy'n awr mewn swyddi cyson neu'n llwydda yn y coleg. Roedd ganddynt gymhelliant ac fe ddwedon nhw fod y gefnogaeth unigol a gawsant yn y Porth yn ganolog wrth newid eu bywydau.

"Fe wnes hefyd gyfarfod â gnŵp o oedolion yr oedd eu swyddi wedi ei dileu, gydag effaith y dirwasgiad yn amlwg iawn. Roeddent oll ar eu ffordd i yrfaoedd a swyddi newydd ac yn uchel iawn eu canmoliaeth am effaith gwaith Gyrfa Cymru."

Gyrfa Cymru Caerdydd a'r Fro'n ennill gwobrau

- Am yr ail flwyddyn yn olynol derbyniodd Gyrfa Cymru Caerdydd a'r Fro wobr gan Gadael Gofal Caerdydd am ymrwymiad y cwmni i gefnogi pobl ifanc sydd wedi treulio amser mewn gofal.
- Derbyniodd y cynghorwyr gyrfaoedd Mike Davies a Barbara Price wobrau Partner Rhagorol gan y Ganolfan Byd Gwaith am y cymorth a gynigiant i gwsmeriaid wrth ochr staff Canolfan Byd Gwaith yng Nghaerdydd, Penarth a'r Barri.
- Enillodd Gyrfa Cymru Caerdydd a'r Fro Ddyfarniad Arian Buddsoddwyr mewn Pobl yn ddiweddar ynghyd â Dyfarniad Arweinyddiaeth a Rheolaeth Buddsoddwyr mewn Pobl.

Gwerthfawrogwn eich sylwadau. Os oes gennych unrhyw gwestiynau, sylwadau neu awgrymiadau am ein gwasanaethau cysylltwch os gwelwch yn dda ag:

Avril Jackson, Rheolydd Marchnata, Gyrfa Cymru Caerdydd a'r Fro, 53 Heol Siarl, Caerdydd CF10 2GD Ffôn: 029 2090 6700 neu e-bost avril.jackson@cardiffandvale.org.uk.

Ariannir Gyrfa Cymru gan Lywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru. Roedd cost ein gwasanaethau am y flwyddyn 1 Ebrill 2009 - 31 Mawrth 2010 tua £2.79 y mis i bob oelwyd yng Nghaerdydd a Bro Morgannwg.

Sut y gwnaethom yn 2009/10

Cefnogaeth i fyfyrwyr mewn addysg uwchradd ac addysg bellach yng Nghaerdydd a Bro Morgannwg		Cyf-lawniad	% yn erbyn y targed
Cyfweliadau.		15,412	120%
Cynlluniau Symud Ymlaen.		11,528	105%
Sesiynau grŵp.		2,005	109%
Pobl ifanc yn cymryd rhan yn Porth Addysg, rhaglen cymhelliant i rai 14-16 oed a phobl ifanc mewn coleg.		688	108%
Pobl ifanc yn derbyn cefnogaeth mentora gan gynghorwyr Porth Addysg.	Cyfweliadau Sesiynau grŵp	2,255 904	133% 105%
Gwaith gyda phobl ifanc gyda Daiganiad o Angen Addysgol Arbennig.	Cyfweliadau Adolygiadau Portio Cynlluniau Symud Ymlaen Cynlluniau Dysgu a Sgiliau Sesiynau grŵp	1,050 552 832 172 48	153% 104% 103% 115% 120%
Pobl ifanc a ddetbyniodd gefnogaeth ar gyfer gweithgaredd addysg busnes.	Ysgolion cynradd Ysgolion uwchradd	21,925 29,740	DIG 109%
Nifer lleoliadau profiad gwaith a drefnwyd.	14-16 oed 16-19 oed	5,942 1,027	DIG DIG
Nifer y bobl ifanc a gymerodd ran mewn busnes a mentro.	12-16 oed 16-19 oed	8,276 2,146	DIG DIG
Nifer y bobl ifanc yn derbyn cefnogaeth cyflogwyr ar gyfer mentora a gosod nodau unigol.		1, 862	DIG
Nifer y bobl ifanc yn ymwneud â sefydlu prosiectau busnes bach gyda chefnogaeth cyflogwyr.	12-19 oed	5,505	DIG
Nifer y bobl ifanc a gymerodd ran mewn gweithgareddau cyflenwi/datblygu cwricwlwm a gefnogir gan gyflogwyr.		23,290	DIG

Cefnogaeth i ysgolion a cholegau

Mae Gyrfa Cymru Caerdydd a'r Fro yn gweithio'n agos gydag athrawon a darlithwyr i sicrhau fod disgyblion a myfyrwyr yn derbyn addysg ac arweiniad gyrfaoedd ansawdd uchel. Trefnwyd 35 digwyddiad hyfforddi yn ystod y flwyddyn yn cynnwys 173 o athrawon a staff cynylliedig. Cafodd 413 o athrawon ysgolion cynradd ac uwchradd a darlithwyr coleg hefyd eu helpu i ganfod lleoliadau gyda chyflogwyr 99.5% yn erbyn y targed.

Cefnogaeth i rieni a gwarcheidwaid Canfu arolygon mai rhieni a gofalwyr yw'r dylanwad mwyaf ar benderfyniadau gyrfa eu plant.		
Trafodaethau gyda rhieni.	3,301	DIG
Nosweithiau rhieni a fynychwyd.	100	DIG
Llythyrau at rieni myfyrwyr ym mlynyddoedd 7, 9, 10, 11 a 12.	28,786	DIG
Cefnogaeth i bobl ifanc sydd wedi gadael addysg lawn-amser		
Cyfweliadau gan gynghorwyr gyrfaoedd yn ein Canolfannau.	2,725	113%
Cyfweliadau gan gynghorwyr gyrfaoedd gyda phobl ifanc gyda Daiganiad o Angen Addysgol Arbennig.	304	DIG
Cyfweliadau gan gynhorthwyr llesiol.	3,619	100%
Cofnyniadau arweiniad ysgrifenedig.	3,086	251%
Nifer y bobl ifanc a ddodwyd yn y Porth Ieuenctid.	536	97%
Nifer y bobl ifanc a ddodwyd mewn cyflogaeth.	283	DIG
Nifer y bobl ifanc a ddodwyd mewn hyfforddiant seiliedig ar waith.	1,648	DIG
Cyfweliadau gyda phobl ifanc yn y Porth Ieuenctid.	5,820	110%
Cynllunau Symud Ymlaen ar gyfer pobl ifanc yn y Porth Ieuenctid.	1,041	99%
Sesiynau grŵp ar gyfer pobl ifanc yn y Porth Ieuenctid.	4,807	93%

Cafodd Porth Ieuenctid ei redeg gan Gyrfa Cymru Caerdydd a'r Fro ac mae'n rhoi help ychwanegol i bobl ifanc sy'n ansicr beth i'w wneud ar ôl gadael y ysgol neu coleg sy'n ei chael yn anodd dod o hyd i'r cyfle cywir.

Yn ogystal mae Tîm Hyfforddiant Dysgu Caerdydd, a ariannir gan Cymorth Cymru, a Rhwydwaith 14-19 Caerdydd yn seiliedig yn Mforth Ieuenctid Caerdydd. Cafodd cynghorwyr gyrfaoedd a gweithwyr ieuenctid eu hyfforddi fel Hyfforddwyr Dysgu i helpu'r bobl ifanc 16-18 oed anodd ef eu cynnedd i gael mynediad i addysg, hyfforddiant a chyflogaeth.

Mae cynghorwyr gyrfaoedd hefyd yn seiliedig gyda'r Gwasanaethau Tiroeddu Ieuenctid yng Nghaerdydd a'r Fro i helpu pobl ifanc sydd wedi treseddu i gymryd rhan mewn addysg, hyfforddiant neu gyflogaeth.

Cefnogaeth i oedolion		
Cyfweliadau gan gynghorwyr gyrfaoedd.	6,550	114%
Oheynt: Cyfweliadau gydag oedolion di-waith.	2,313	DIG
Cyfweliadau gydag oedolion a gafodd rybudd dileu swydd yn cynnwys rhai a gynorthwyir dan ReAct.	2,453	DIG
Cyfweliadau gan gynhorthwyr gwybodaeth.	3,104	104%
Arweiniad ysgrifenedig ar gastyniadau.	7,316	105%
Sesiynau grŵp	115	115%

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Gweithio gyda chyflogwyr		
Ymweliadau i gyflogwyr.	1,447	82%
Swyddi gwag a hysbyseyd.	546	DIG
Cyflogwyr yn cefnogi gweithgareddau addysg busnes.	3,521	128%

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Depp and Jolie enjoy Venice in frothy thriller

SCREEN TALK

by GARETH JAMIESON

EVER since Johnny Depp struck mainstream gold with the *Pirates of the Carribean* franchise back in 2003, he seems to have revelled in playing characters a little out of the ordinary.

Willy Wonka, The Mad Hatter and Sweeney Todd have all been given the sparkle of Depp's taste for the odd, but there has been little in the way of 'straight' acting from the star, save for *Public Enemie*s – which makes his latest film, *The Tourist*, something of a welcome arrival.

Depp plays Frank, the titular tourist who travels to Venice to mend a broken heart. While there, he encounters Elise (Angelina Jolie), a mysterious woman who has her eye on Frank.

However, with various agencies (led by Paul Bettany) and Russian gangsters (led by Steven Berkoff) on the tale of Elise, Frank soon gets unwillingly caught up in a world of intrigue and suspense...

The term 'Hitchcockian' is generally used to describe films that manage to ape the master director's ability to create twisting and turning stories with mysteries that reveal themselves as the story reaches its climax.

Often, it is a term lazily used merely because a director or scriptwriter has adapted the more notable works of his oeuvre and presented them as heavily influenced by the likes of *North by Northwest*, et al.

It's a comparison that, lazy or not, applies to *The Tourist*, but rather than merely ape something that has gone before, the film takes a story that even Hitch himself would have found appealing and ends up being part homage, part attempt to parlay his style into modern-day filmmaking.

It is also very entertaining indeed. It is certainly assisted by using a European director, as opposed to an American one – the feel of the film having a sheen of class and sophistication with a degree of weight under the bonnet, and visually making the most of the cinematic quality that Venice brings to the screen.

You could argue that Venice deserves its own screen credit after Depp and Jolie, such is the loving way it is shot, and you can't argue with such sumptuous visuals.

The man behind the camera, the wonderfully monikered (but spellcheck-confounding) Florian Henckel von Donnersmarck, is making his English-language debut, having helmed the astounding *The Lives of Others*, and Donnersmarck shows little nerves here in what is a skilled directorial outing.

The visuals, as mentioned, are wonderful, while the occasional outbreaks of action are smoothly handled, making up in style for what they lack in expansive thrills and spills.

But what is most impressive is Donnersmarck's lightness of touch with the material, something his previous film lacked – mainly due to the nature of the story.

Here, he seems to relish in the playfulness of the tale, and while that does backfire slightly, giving the more dramatic moments less tension, in the overall context it works very well, the frothiness of the film making it easy to overlook the lack of realism within the story, which is perhaps the film's biggest bugbear.

While the set-up is swiftly handled, there are plot holes if you have the time to look for them: Why is Frank simply going along for the ride when he doesn't know this woman? Why are the police watching Elise from afar rather than arresting her?

Come the film's conclusion this is explained in a twist that, while clever, feels something of a letdown.

But given that this came from the pen of Christopher McQuarrie (*The Usual Suspects*) and Julian Fellowes (TV's *Downton Abbey* and *Gosford Park*) along with Donnersmarck (albeit adapted from Jerome Salle's 2005 French picture *Anthony Zimmer*), there is enough clever dialogue and turns to keep you engaged, and even forgive a climax that splutters just as things are building up.

Another reason for the film's success is the pairing of Johnny Depp and Angelina Jolie, remarkably the first time the pair have been on the big screen together. When you have a gorgeous woman like Jolie, and an attractive man like Depp (or so I've been told!), sparks are obviously going to fly, and the pair share a playful chemistry together.

Depp's offering is far more straightforward than his recent output, and it's a welcome change, the actor delivering a solid but entertaining turn.

Certainly, he adds a level of idiosyncracy to the character (his smoking of a plastic cigarette as an example) and doesn't quite convince as the ordinary man thrust into extraordinary circumstances, but Depp is never less than watchable and the same applies here.

Jolie can do elegant lady of mystery in her sleep, and shorn of her action credentials (bar a riverboat sequence) her performance is tamer and ever so slightly more refined, her usual steely persona showing the merest hint of emotion under the surface.

As the conductor of events, she and her British accent lead us through the mystery of what is going, and looking her best, Jolie sparkles alongside Depp.

The film really pivots on the two leads, but there are supporting turns from the likes of Paul Bettany as an investigator on the tail of Elise, Timothy Dalton as a chief of police, Rufus Sewell as a mysterious man and Steven Berkoff, cruising as a gangster, that don't exactly push the limits, but within the film are perfectly serviceable, given the time they spend on screen.

Certainly *The Tourist* may be a little too frothy and lightweight for some, its caper movie feel and style not overly substantial and, at times, it veers towards throwaway; but as a slice of undemanding Friday night fare, it works extremely well – and when you have this much beauty on screen you can't complain about that!

VERDICT: A playful caper film that tips its hat to Hitchock, *The Tourist* is fizzy and pleasing, if lightweight, film.

Director Florian Henckel von Donnersmarck captures the beauty of Venice, and also the European feel of the thriller, while Johnny Depp and Angelina Jolie sparkle in the lead roles, in what is a wonderful piece of cinematic entertainment. ***Recommended.***

Peterston-super-Ely tells a traditional Christmas tale

PHOTOGRAPHS by **IAN DIXON**

THIS year, Peterston primary school pupils gave two "fantastic" performances for family and friends.

The foundation phase presented a traditional Nativity, and key stage two pupils performed '*Cinderella Rockerfella*' – a modern twist on the well-known story.

The school's headteacher, Mr Griffiths, said: "Both performances were excellent and were enjoyed by all. "

"The hard work of the teachers and their assistants, and the talent of the children, made for a wonderful start to our Christmas festivities.

"There is something really delightful about watching innocent faces depicting the Nativity, and older pupils having fun acting out a panto."

MUSIC IN THE VALE'S 25th COMPETITION GIVES VIRTUOSOS A CHANCE TO SHINE!

AUDIENCES enjoyed a musical feast last weekend when Music in the Vale celebrated 25 years of its annual competition for young musicians with two concerts at Ysgol Bro Morgannwg in Barry.

After a long day of auditions on Saturday for the singers and on Sunday for the instrumentalists, the finalists performed in evening concerts, when the winners were decided.

On both days, the standard was high. The repertoire was varied, ranging from folk songs to operatic arias and the instruments were as diverse as harp, bassoon, saxophone, violin, cello, guitar, a triple ocarina (a very sophisticated recorder) as well as the piano.

On each evening there was also an ensemble competition, with two choirs of young singers from Llandaff Cathedral School competing on the Saturday and six instrumental ensembles on Sunday featuring saxophones, a piano trio, as well as a six-piece percussion band complete with sets of drums and xylophones!

Some of the musicians were as young as 10. The adjudicators were musicians Patricia O'Neill and Henry Newman for the singers, and Robin Stowell and Christopher Vale for the instrumentalists.

The young musicians came mainly from the Vale and Cardiff, although it was good to have new entrants from further afield. The competition is open to young people from eight to 21 and there are three classes, juniors, intermediates and seniors with an open class for the ensembles.

As Music in the Vale was celebrating 25 years of the competition, it was appropriate that Armando Tartaglia, one of the original founders of the competition, was able to present the Tartaglia Cup to the winners of the instrumental ensemble.

Full details of Music in the Vale, including details of the competition and future performance dates are available on the website www.musicinthevale.org.uk

ABOVE: Llandaff Cathedral's Junior Boys Choir, runners-up in the ensemble section.

Leanne Cody with Jane Hutt AM.

ABOVE: The finalists in the senior singers.

The winning Cantemus Choir.

ABOVE: The Celestial trio were the senior ensemble winners.

The finalists in the junior instrumental.

Llinos Hâf Picton Jones. with Coun Gordon Kemp.

Results

SINGERS: Junior: Winner – Lois Aled (Cowbridge); Runner-up – Guy Roberts (Cardiff); Finalists: Llinos Hâf Picton Jones (Penarth) and Seren Ffly^r Hamilton (Llantwit Major).

Intermediate: Winner – Rhydian Morgan Jenkins (Maesteg); Runner-up – Lisa Medi Williams (Cowbridge); Finalists – Michael McGrinder (Pontypridd) and Sophie Marielle Thomas (Llancarfan).

Senior: Winner – Grace Wain (Cardiff); Runner-up – Phillippa Scammell (Cardiff); Finalists – Heulen Melangell Cynfal (Cardiff) and Shoshana Pavett (Cardiff).

Most Promising Soloist (resident in the Vale of Glamorgan) - Llinos Hâf Picton Jones.

Ensemble: Winner – Cantemus (Llandaff Cathedral Mixed Junior Choir): Aofie Pryor, Ben Payne, Claudia Herbert, Evan Thomas, Francesca Hutchings, Jessica Norton, Lydia Morris, Megan Cronk, Oliver Piper, Oliver Popham, Olivia Curtis-Hughes, Thai Clements. Runner-up – Junior Boys Choir (Llandaff Cathedral School): Abhishek Deglurkar, Dominic Lazarevic-Saif, Evan Thomas, Fintan Roberts, Harri Lewis, Harry Toll, Henry Stoodley-Williamson, Nojan Chegounchi, Sam Staffurth, Samuel Griffin, Simeon Alcolado, Thomas Plaut.

INSTRUMENTALISTS: **Junior**: Winner – Charlie Lovell- Jones (Violin) (Cardiff); Runner-up – Nest Jenkins (Harp) (Aberystwyth); Finalists: Madeline Lloyd (Flute) (Penarth) and Gem Pipps (Violin) (Penarth).

Intermediate: Winner – Ben Tarlton (Cello) (Llantwit Major); Runner-up – Joseph Keenan (Saxophone) (Penarth); Finalists – Jennifer Marks (Piano) (Barry) and Isabella Kolaczynska (Violin) (Llanidloes).

Senior: Winner – Charlie Jean Clist (Violin) (Cowbridge); Runner-up – Leanne Cody (Piano) (Barry); Finalists – Daniel Gooch (Saxophone) (Cardiff) and Rebecca Eldridge (Bassoon) (Cardiff).

Most Promising Soloist (resident in the Vale of Glamorgan): Leanne Cody.

Ensembles: Winner – Celestial Trio: Alice Jackson (Piano), Charlie Jean Clist (Violin), Hannah Clist (Cello).

Runner-up – Asa Saxophone Quartet: Charlotte Treadway, Max Goldberg, Stephanie Batchelor, Verity Shortman.

Finalist – Labyrinth: Ben Treacher, Ellen Shipman, Gareth Humphreys, Victoria Rodge.

Finalist – Merthyr Tydfil Percussion Ensemble: Finbarr Canney, Michael Scott Youde, Oliver Lloyd Amesbury, Paisley Reeves Preece, Peter Phillips, Samuel Roper.

ABOVE: The Asa Saxophone Quartet.

The junior singers finalists.

The intermediate singer finalists.

ABOVE: The senior instrumentalist finalists.

The finalists in the intermediate instrumentalist competition.

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MAMAS & PAPAS COT as new £55. Mothercare highchair, perfect condition £25 ono. Tel: 01446 771307 Cowbridge. **(51)**

ROLEX OYSTER Perpetual date just stainless steel/white gold. Boxed, one year old, authenticity certificates. £2,600 ovno, cost £4,490. Tel: 01446 745859. **(51)**

ANGLIAN Fully glazed Georgian style white UPVC front door and frame £100. Tel: 01446 794093. **(51)**

FOLD-UP BED and mattress. New, £30. Tel: 01446 742772. **(50)**

MAN'S SARACEN Mountain bike, new £350. Sell £250 ono (cash). Tel: 01446 795275. **(50)**

DURESTA GEORGE Brand new large sofa and armchair, antique gold velvet. RRP £3,500, sell £2,800 ono. Tel: 07891 793915 or 01446 760688. **(50)**

TWO SEATER SETTEE with two fully reclining electric armchair, burgundy, excellent condition £350 ono. Mantis cultivator /hedgecutter, also strimmer and shredder £175 for all (can be separated. 4ft bed with headboard, good condition £30. Tel: 01446 404679 (evenings only). **(50)**

3 SEATER SETTEE Cream leather and two armchair, good condition £150. Buyer collects. Tel: 01446 742797. **(50)**

HIGH SCHOOL MUSICAL Design: one pair of curtains, 2 double duvets, pillow cases, sheets, bean bag £50. Beautiful ornate gold mirror cost £100, sell £50. Tel: 01656 772160. **(50)**

4FT DRAWER DIVAN BED Mattress/headboard, as new, 9 year guarantee £125. Tel: 01656 661237. **(50)**

GIRLS' APOLLO BIKE 16" wheels, suit age 6-9, blue & pink frame, good condition. Cost £100, sell £45 ono. Tel: 07973 863659. **(49)**

HOTPOINT Under counter fridge & freezer, white, £45 each. Tel: 01446 701420. **(49)**

G-PLAN Two x 2 seater sofas, armchair, pale grey/blue draylon £250. Tel: 01446 773135. **(49)**

HINARI MICROWAVE Black/chrome, still in box £25. Hinari multi att. hand blender & carver, still in box £25. Pine 4 drawer chest and country mirror £40. Solid pine headboard £10. Tel: 01656 789096. **(49)**

GUEST BED Never used. £80 new, will sell £50 ono. Tel: 01446 743204. **(49)**

WHITE STEEL BATH All attachments, very good condition £50. Tel: 01446 794268. **(48)**

BERGERE SOFA Attractive large G-Plan 3-seater in antique gold draylon, £99. Tel: 01446 795754. **(48)**

IKEA Epedit white book case £30. Ikea Fredrick work station, birch effect/silver £30. Ikea Meldal day bed £40. Tel: 01446 795386. **(48)**

TROPICAL AQUARIUM 36" long with cabinet, fish and accessories £80 ono. Tel: 01656 784107. **(48)**

BRITAX Children's car seat. Aged up to 4 years, excellent condition £60. Tel: 01446 748801. **(48)**

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Vauxhall Vectra 1.8 LS 04 5-Dr Estate
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07742 647019
49

54 Ford Focus Zetec 5-Dr
Pale blue, 20,731 miles, tax & MOT Jan 2011, VGC.
£4,000
01446 773117
49

2000 Nissan Micra 1.4 SE Auto 5-Dr
Purple metallic, one owner, only 37,000 miles, new MOT, 6 months tax, central locking, E/W, excellent condition throughout, illness forces reluctant sale.
£1,950
07894 233331
49

Xmas Greetings

Dilys Leyshon
wishes all her family and friends a Very Happy Christmas and Good Health in the New Year.
"God Bless"

To family and friends:
Merry Christmas and Happy New Year
from
Gareth Collier

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GEM Family Notices

Family Notices

Maurice Dwek
1927-2010

Brenda & family would like to thank the many people who attended the funeral, for the numerous letters and cards of sympathy, and also to Canon Derek Belcher & Father Julian for leading the very moving service. It has been a great comfort to us at this very sad time.

COLE
Thomas James

John and his family would like to thank Jim's relatives, friends and neighbours at Sigingstone for their support and messages of sympathy at this sad time.

A special thank you to the staff at Southway for their care and dedication, Reverend David Boult for his kindness and comfort, and Thomas Brothers for their professionalism.

IN MEMORY

GARY JONES
December 18th 2009

It's been a year since this beautiful man was stolen from our lives.
"Nothing beautiful in this world is ever really lost, all things loved live in our hearts forever."
Pam, Gill, Simon, Gabe and Taylor. *x*

WHITEHOUSE
John

The family would like to thank everyone who attended the funeral. We would also like to thank family and friends for their support to our father over the past months and for all the messages of sympathy. Special thanks also to Revd Julian Jenkins and Thomas Brothers.

HARRIS
Cliff

Peacefully on December 11 at Princess of Wales Hospital, Bridgend, Cliff of St Athan, beloved husband of the late Kathleen.
Resting at the Private Funeral Home of W James & Sons, Fonmon. Funeral Tuesday December 21, service 11am at St Athan Church followed by interment in St Athan Cemetery.
Flowers may be sent to the Funeral Home.

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Birthdays

Lauren Sweeney

Happy 21st Birthday
18th December 2010
'ALL GROWN UP'
Doing well on your year abroad - we are all proud of you.
Lots of love from Mum, Dad, Cameron, Nan & Grand. xxx

Congratulations

Congratulations
Andrew and Bev
on the birth of your
beautiful baby boy
Jayden Kevin Charlie
MAKER
Lots of love from
Nanny and Gramps Maker,
Nanny and Bampy Gifford

Anniversaries

Diamond Wedding Anniversary
Eric & Gwen Boorman
23rd December 2010

CONGRATULATIONS AND LOTS OF LOVE FROM YOUR FAMILY
Kath, Steve, Jessica, Daniel, Wendy, Martyn, Rhian, Andrew, Bethan, Lee and Erin.

Birth Notices

Congratulations and lots of love to
STUART AND MELISSA HUGHES
(née Jelinek) on the birth of

Violet Elise
December 12, 2010
7lb 81/2 oz.
First Grandchild for
Philip and Linda Jelinek

Thank You

Thanks Nigel, Marianne and family for my Surprise Birthday Party
Superb food at 'Oscars' Thank you Julian & staff.
Music & vocals: Jeff Hooper.
Thank you to everyone for my lovely cards and presents, and being so, so secretive.
How you did it is beyond me.
. . . Love you – Maureen Chick

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Public Notice

VALE OF GLAMORGAN LEGAL, PUBLIC PROTECTION & HOUSING SERVICES MARRIAGE ACT 1994 AND CIVIL PARTNERSHIP ACT 2004

BRO MORGANNWG GWASANAETHAU CYFREITHIOL, AMDDIFFYN Y CYHOEDD A THAI DEDDF PRIODI 1994 A DEDDF PARTNERIAETH SIFIL 2004

Take notice that the above department has received the following application under the above Act from Vale of Glamorgan Hotel Ltd for Vale Resort, Hensol Park, Hensol, Vale of Glamorgan, CF72 8JY to be a premise approved as a venue for Marriage and Civil Partnership Ceremonies.

This application and associated plans are available for public inspection between 9.00 a.m. - 4.00 p.m., Monday to Friday at the Civic Offices, Holton Road, Barry CF63 4RU.

Any person wishing to object to the grant of this approval should write to the above address giving reasons for their objection within 21 days of the date of publication of this notice.

Peter H Evans
Director of Legal, Public Protection & Housing Services

Hysbysir drwy hyn fod yr adran a enwir uchod wedi derbyn cais o dan y Ddeddf uchod gan Vale of Glamorgan Hotel Cyf ar ran Vale Resort, Parc Hensol, Hensol, Bro Morgannwg, CF72 8JY i fod yn safle cymeradwy ar gyfer cynnal Seremoniau Priodas a Phartneriaeth Sifil.

Gall aelodau'r cyhoedd weld manylion y cais a'r cynluniau cysylltiedig rhwng 9.00 a.m. - 4.00 p.m. ddydd Llun i ddydd Gwener yn y Swyddfeydd Dinesig, Heol Holton, Y Barri CF63 4RU.

Os ydych chi'n dymuno gwrthwynebu'r cais hwn, dylech anfon gwrthwynebiad ysgrifenedig yn cynnwys rhesymau i'r cyfeiriad uchod cyn pen 21 diwrnod ar ôl cyhoeddi'r hysbysiad hwn.

Peter H Evans
Cyfarwyddwr Gwasanaethau Cyfreithiol, Amddiffyn y Cyhoedd a Thai

Vale AM backs plea to reinstate short breaks service for the disabled

ANGELA THOMAS and her daughter, Marnie, petitioned Vale AM, Jane Hutt, at her surgery about re-instating the short breaks service run by Action for Children for the Vale Council at Ty Robin Goch, Barry.

The AM met parents and carers using Ty Robin Goch at their recent protest at the Civic Offices and she wrote to the Vale Council to raise her concerns about the reduction in service from seven days to just four days a week.

Ms Hutt commented: "Short break services support disabled children and their families by giving disabled children and young people enjoyable experiences and respite for parents and carers.

"For the last three years, the Welsh Assembly Government has provided more than £1.5 million each year to local authorities throughout Wales to promote and improve short break services for disabled children, young people and their families.

"We are protecting social services through the Local Government Settlement recently announced. This protection means that funding for social services will increase in cash terms by £35m by 2013-14, representing a three per cent uplift."

She went on: "Provisions within the Children and Young Persons Act 2008 will place a statutory duty on local authorities to provide short breaks for disabled children and their families, and it comes into force next year.

"I am glad the scrutiny committee has taken this matter up and I trust the Vale Council will now consider re-instating this vitally important service in the Vale," the AM concluded.

Angela Thomas and her daughter Marnie meet the Vale AM.

Coity WI celebrate season of success!

NEW Age Kurling is getting popular with the ladies, and Ann Mutton and Mary Poland came a creditable fourth in the recent competitions at Bridgend Recreation Centre.

Mary Poland, president of Coity WI, has also had a great success at the GFWI competitions at the Royal Welsh winter fair, where she was awarded first prize in a class of 18 for her fruit cake.

Other activities in November included a stall at Gilead Chapel Christmas fair, a visit to Howell's of Cardiff for late night shopping, and supporting the Help for Heroes coffee morning at the home of Mr and Mrs John Dunlop of Coity.

The speaker at the monthly meeting was Christine Seaman, who gave a beautifully illustrated talk on her life as a ballerina.

December opened with the Christmas dinner, held this year in the Church Hall.

The group carol service was held at St Mary's, Coity, with a service of lessons and carols prepared by Rev Sue Beverly. Lessons and seasonal poems were read by representatives of each of the WIs in the Link and the singing was accompanied by the organist and choir of Coity Church.

The Christmas season was further celebrated as some members took part in the Christmas Tree Festival at Nolton Church, and were delighted to find that we had won the overall prize, judged by Madeleine Moon MP.

The WI tree represented 'Baby's First Christmas', a traditional Nativity theme given a contemporary twist with hand-knitted booties and mitts – alongside the gold, frankincense and myrrh.

SPREADING THE TRUE MESSAGE OF CHRISTMAS ACROSS THE UNIVERSE!

THE infant department at St David's Primary School, Colwinston, added a unique twist to the Christmas story with aliens from outer space who had crash-landed their spaceship in the middle of concert rehearsals!

Despite the children's surprise, they welcomed the new arrivals and invited them along to their Christmas Nativity.

While trying to fix their spaceship, the aliens learnt all about the first Christmas – they couldn't believe that people travelled on camels and donkeys, not spaceships!

The lucky time travellers met angels, stars, kings, shepherds, innkeepers and storytellers – not to mention sheep, camels, and a donkey.

The aliens promised to spread the true message of Christmas across the universe.

A big thank you to parents for providing the fabulous costumes and congratulations to pupils and staff for all their hard work to stage a truly outstanding performance.

THE WIZARD AND THE WITCH AT COLWINSTON PRIMARY SCHOOL

LEFT: The munchins ready to greet Dorothy (below left) as she prepares to leave Colwinston and travel the yellow brick road.

THE junior department at St David's Primary School, Colwinston, put on a superb Christmas version of *The Wizard of Oz* recently.

The audience were entertained with classic and modern songs, excellent acting and plenty of exciting twists and turns.

Dorothy, while sitting bored at home in Colwinston, got whisked away by a cyclone and arrived in Munchkinland!

She met up with her friends and battled the Wicked Witch to reach The Great Oz.

"The children did the school proud and once again raised the bar for next year.

"A big thank you to pupils, parents and staff for all their hard work," a spokesperson said.

LEFT: On her travels, Dorothy met four rather nice, and not too scary, witches.

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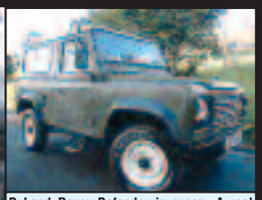

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03 **03 BMW 3.0 330 Ci convertible.** In topaz blue with montana grey leather, rear parking sensors, multi cd, alloy wheels, heated seats, only 55,200 miles..... **£9,495**

02 **02 JAGUAR X-type 2.5 V6 Automatic Sport 4-dr Saloon.** In Anthracite Black with Sand sport leather interior, reverse park control, automatic climate control, cruise control, privacy glass, colour coded bumpers, only 70,080 miles **£4,995**

02 **51 MERCEDES BENZ C-Class 2.0 C180 Sport Coupe** in brilliant silver met with Ascot interior, dual zone climate control, cruise control, auto lights, cd, alloy wheels, only 70,647 miles..... **£4,995**

SPORTS

09 **59 VAUXHALL Insignia 2.0 16v Turbo SRi (Nav)** In lightning silver metallic with Vitesse interior, full colour navigation, alloy wheels, climate control, cruise control, phone prep, only 14,500 miles. **£13,995**

09 **09 MINI 1.6 (120bhp) Cooper (Pepper) Graphite** In graphite grey with black interior, storage compartment package, 2 spoke leather steering wheel, air con, CD, only 6,570 miles **£13,495**

07 **57 MINI Cooper 1.6 (120) Chilli Pack 3-dr Hatchback.** In pepper white with carbon black half leather interior, panoramic roof, air con, CD, rear parking sensors, service history, only 56,000 miles.... **£9,995**

07 **07 SEAT Leon 2.0 TDi DPF FR 5-dr Hatchback.** In black magic with FR grey interior, cruise control, air con, traction control system, ESP, only 38,598 miles **£11,995**

07 **07 VAUXHALL Tigra 1.4i 16v sport 2-dr cabriolet** in air blue with charcoal alpha interior, alloy wheels, body coloured bumpers, cd, front fogs, only 48,730 miles **£6,995**

06 **56 VOLKSWAGEN Golf 1.4TSi (170ps) FT 5-dr** in reflex silver metallic with siemere anthracite interior, climatic air con, front fogs, alloy wheels, cd, only 49,998 miles **£9,995**

06 **56 HONDA Civic 1.8i V-tec Type-S 3-dr Hatchback.** In alabaster silver with alcantara/suede interior, climate control, CD, alloy wheels, colour coded bumpers, only 24,405 miles **£8,995**

06 **55 MAZDA MX-5 2.0i Sport 2-Dr Convertible** In Winning blue with black leather interior, multi CD, air con, heated seats, alloy wheels, body coloured bumpers, only 36,900 miles..... **£7,995**

06 **55 RENAULT Megane 2.0 VVT 136 Privilege 2-dr Coupe Cabriolet.** In metallic gold with magnolia leather interior, luxury pack, climate control, multi CD, cruise control, panoramic roof, only 9,250 mls **£6,995**

05 **55 PEUGEOT 206 1.6 HDi 110 Sport 5-dr hatchback** in flamenco red with black Merlin interior, alloy wheels, air con, CD, body coloured bumpers, only 50,600 miles..... **£4,995**

05 **55 FORD Street Ka 1.6 Luxury 2-dr Convertible.** In French blue with ebony black leather interior, air con, cd, quick clear front screen, only 21,720 miles **£4,995**

04 **54 VOLKSWAGEN Polo 1.9 TDi (100ps) Sport 5-dr** in rosewood red pearlescent with scala sports interior, alloy wheels, air con, body coloured bumpers, cd, only 59,790 miles..... **£4,995**

04 **04 AUDI TT Coupe 3.2 V6 3-dr Coupe Quattro.** In dolemite grey with grey leather interior, climate control, traction control system, multi CD, BOSE sound system, only 35,040 miles **£9,995**

04 **04 BMW 3 Series 2.0 TD 320CD Sport 2-dr coupe** in orient blue with beige leather interior, sat nav, wood trim, TV automatic air con, MV2 alloy wheels, onlt 93,440 miles **£8,995**

04 **04 TOYOTA MR2 1.8 VVTi 140 6-spd** in sable grey met with Santa Monica leather, alloy wheels, chrome roll over bar, wind deflector, cd, alarm and immobiliser, only 49,750 miles **£6,995**

04 **54 CITROEN C2 1.6 VTR Sensodrive** in arctic steel silver with neutron mesh interior, paddle shift, alloy wheels, air con, colour coded bumpers, rear spoiler, cd, only 62,100 miles..... **£3,495**

03 **53 VOLKSWAGEN Golf 3.2 R32 3-dr Hatchback.** In diamond Black with black leather interior, electric sunroof, cruise control, 18" alloy wheels, metallic paint, climate control, service history, only 63,000 miles..... **£8,995**

03 **53 MG TF 1.8 135bhp 2-dr Convertible.** In starlight silver with black interior, alloy wheels, body coloured bumpers, CD, electric windows, only 30,845 miles..... **£3,995**

02 **02 AUDI TT Roadster 1.8 T (225) 2-dr Convertible.** In silver with grey leather interior, six CD changer, BOSE sound system, 17" alloy wheels, immobiliser only 70,620 miles **£9,995**

00 **W LEXUS IS200 2.0 Sport 4-dr Saloon.** In Strathcarn blue with Oakham suede/leather interior, multi-CD, electric heated seats, electric sunroof, air con, only 57,280 miles **£3,995**

89 **G BMW 3 Series 320i 2.0 2-Door Convertible.** In silver with black leather interior, headlamp cleaning system, M-Technic steering wheel, wood effect trim, electric windows, front fog lights, alloy wheels, only 68,140 miles..... **£4,995**

FAMILY

09 **59 FORD Fiesta 1.25 (60ps) Style 5-Dr Hatchback.** In moondust silver with blue Syracuse interior, radio CD with aux input, power steering, body coloured bumpers, immobiliser, one owner, only 3,360 miles..... **£7,995**

09 **09 PEUGEOT 207 1.4 75 Verve 5-Door Hatchback.** In onyx black with black interior, alloy wheels, air con, body coloured bumpers, front fog lights, only 8,890 miles **£7,995**

08 **08 VAUXHALL Astra 1.6 Breeze 5-dr** in star silver met with tabita charcoal interior, alloy wheels, climate control, trip computer, body coloured bumpers, only 10,800 miles..... **£7,995**

07 **07 KIA Sorento 2.5 CRDi XE Automatic 5-dr Station Wagon** in quartz grey/purple with grey interior, air con, CD, roof rails, four wheel drive, service history, only 36,500 miles **£12,995**

07 **57 SEAT Altea XL 1.9 TDi Stylance** in metallic ruby red with stylance grey interior, rear parking sensors, cd, climate control, cruise control, aux input, only 49,100 miles **£8,495**

07 **57 VAUXHALL Meriva 1.4 16v Breeze 5-Dr MPV.** In Black sapphire with charcoal interior, reversing sensors, CD, air con, privacy glass, only 23,580 miles **£6,495**

07 **57 FORD Fiesta 1.2 Style 5-Door Hatchback.** In moondust silver with Kyoto Ebony interior, CD, electric front windows, body coloured bumpers, power steering, only 25,480 miles **£5,495**

07 **07 RENAULT Clio 1.4 16v 98 Dynamique 5-dr Hatchback.** In mercury silver with carbon sport interior, air con, CD, front fogs, alarm, only 15,060 miles **£6,495**

06 **56 DODGE Caliber 2.0 TD SXT 5-dr Hatchback.** In bright silver clearcoat with Pastel slate grey leather interior, air con, multi CD, cruise control, traction control system, only 42,230 miles **£6,995**

06 **56 RENAULT Scenic 1.6 VVT Dynamique 5-dr Hatchback.** In quartz with laser charcoal interior, air con, CD, colour coded bumpers, front fogs, only 32,000 miles **£5,495**

06 **06 MAZDA 6 2.0TF TS2 (143 bhp) 5-dr hatchback** in Pacific blue with black sports interior, multi CD, Bose sound system, cruise conrol, climate control, only 73,000 miles **£5,495**

06 **06 AUDI A4 2.0 TDi S Line.** In brilliant red with black mondial interior, climate control, aluminium trim strips, multi CD, 18" alloy wheels, service history, only 73,400 miles..... **£10,995**

05 **54 AUDI A3 1.6 Special Edition 3-dr Hatchback.** In black with charcoal interior, CD, front fogs, climate control, alloy wheels, one owner only 60,300 miles **£6,995**

05 **54 CHEVROLET Lacetti 1.6 SX 5-dr Estate.** In imperial blue with grey interior, a/con, cd, electric windows, body coloured bumpers, only 30,700 miles..... **£3,495**

05 **05 HONDA Civic 1.7 CDTi** in magnetic blue with hatch fabric interior, alloy wheels, air con, cd, colour coded bumpers, only 55,130 miles **£5,995**

04 **54 CITROEN C3 stop&start 1.4 5-dr Automatic Hatchback.** In silver with blue velour interior, air con, cd, alloy wheels, only 29,920 miles **£3,695**

04 **04 TOYOTA Avensis 2.0 VVTi T-Spirit Auto 4-dr Saloon.** Silver fern, st moritz charcoal leather, map gps nav system, climate, cruise, electric seat adjustment, only 55,065 miles **£5,995**

01 **51 MERCEDES Benz A-Class 1.4 A140 Avantguard 5-dr hatchback.** In red with slate grey half leather/cloth interior, cd, ipod connection, air con, alloy wheels, service history, only 47,790 miles..... **£2,995**

SMALL

08 **58 CHEVROLET Matiz 1.0 SE+ 5-dr Hatchback.** In mighty blue with grey interior, air con, central locking, CD, front electric windows, ISOFIX, only 26,560 miles **£3,995**

08 **58 VAUXHALL Corsa 1.2 16v Design (A/C).** 5 door in ice blue with dark interior, air con, MP3 input, colour coded bumpers, front fog lights, only 19,950 miles **£7,995**

08 **58 CHEVROLET Matiz 1.0SE+ 5-Dr Hatchback.** In poly silver with blue/black interior, air con, central locking, CD, colour coded bumpers, power steering, only 26,750 miles..... **£3,995**

08 **08 CITROEN C1 1.0i Rhythm 5-dr Hatchback** in Caldera black with black interior, electric front windows, p/steering, CD, centre rear seat belt, 1 owner, £35 a year road tax, only 18,100 miles..... **£5,995**

08 **08 FORD KA Studio.** In panther black with cascade interior, immobiliser, CD, drivers airbag, central locking, only 32,349 miles..... **£4,495**

07 **57 PEUGEOT 207 1.4 M:Play 3-dr Hatchback.** In flamenco red with Talucan black interior, air con, CD with aux input, front fogs, immobiliser, only 41,980 miles **£5,995**

05 **55 FORD Fiesta 1.4 TD Studio 3-dr hatchback** in moondust silver with intro midnight cloth interior, power steering, colour coded bumpers, CD, £30 a year road tax, low mileage **£3,995**

07 **07 VAUXHALL Corsa 1.2i 16v life (a/c) 3-dr hatchback easy tronic.** In metro blue with punch cloth charcoal interior, electric mirrors, air con, immobiliser, service history, only 17,900 miles **£5,495**

06 **56 NISSAN Micra 1.2 16v Sport 3-dr Hatchback** in metallic silver with charcoal interior, air con, alloy wheels, multi cd, body coloured bumpers, only 31,600 miles **£4,995**

05 **55 VAUXHALL Corsa 1.0i 12v Life 3-dr Hatchback.** In purple spell with Orleans charcoal interior, CD, power steering, immobiliser, body coloured bumpers, only 29,820 miles **£3,495**

04 **54 MINI 1.6 Cooper (Pepper pack) 3-dr Hatchback.** In purple with white roof, black interior, 8 spoke alloy wheels, a/c, cd, front fogs, e/front windows, only 39,760 miles **£6,995**

04 **54 FIAT Punto 1.2 8v 3-dr hatchback.** In crystal green with grey tek interior, electric front windows, power steering, colour coded bumpers, only 34,500 miles **£2,995**

04 **04 FORD Ka 1.6 Sport 3-dr Hatchback.** Magnum grey with streetline dark interior, colour coded bumpers, front fog lights, electric windows, alloy wheels, CD, only 40,955 miles **£3,495**

03 **53 MINI One 1.6 3-dr hatchback** in indie blue with anthracite/panther black interior, alloy wheels, chrome mirror caps, electric panoramic glass r oof, only 71,000 miles **£5,995**

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07 Mercedes C220 CDi Avant Garde Estate Auto

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£12,995

57 Audi A4 2.0 TDi Convertible Auto

In met red with beige leather seats, one owner, fantastic value at **£11,995**

52 Toyota Rav 4 1.8 VVTi NV 3-dr

In birch metallic, 43,000 miles, 2 local owners
£4,995

SPORT, PRESTIGE & 4X4

02	**PORSCHE 911 Carrera 4S Tiptronic.** Silver w/black leather, 65,000 miles, just serviced Porsche Cardiff	£23,995
54	**PORSCHE Cayanne 'S' 4.5 V8 Manual.** Dark met-green, black leather heated seats, sat-nav, 56,000 mls	£16,995
08	**VW EOS 2.0 FSi Sport.** Silver with black leather , 44,000 miles, convertible . REDUCED BY £1,000 TO	£13,995
07	**MERCEDES C220 CDi Avante Garde Estate Auto.** In met silver, 65,000 miles, superb throughout	£12,995
07	**JEEP Grand Cherokee 3.0 CRD Ltd Auto** in black with leather trim, 43.000 mile diesel 4x4	£12,895
57	**AUDI A4 2.0 TDi Convertible Automatic.** In met red with beige leather seats, one owner, fantastic value at	£11,995
57	**MAZDA MX5 2.0 Sports.** In met blue with black leather heated seats, 12,000 miles, 1 owner	£11,995
04	**MERCEDES CLK 240 Convertible Auto.** In black with black leather trim, 66,000 miles, upgraded alloys	£11,995
04	**AUDI A4 2.5TDi Auto Convertible.** In silver with black leather, 71,000 miles, sat nav etc	£10,995
07	**MERCEDES C220 CDi Avantgarde Automatic.** In silver, 1 owner, fsh . FANTASTIC VALUE AT	£8,995
54	**HONDA Civic Type R 3-dr.** In black, 44,000 miles, local car with a/c, alloys. SUPERB VALUE AT	£6.995
04	**LAND ROVER Freelander 2.0 TD4 'S' 5-dr Automatic.** In black, 72,000 mile diesel 4x4	£6.995
06	**FORD Fiesta 2.0 ST.** In silver, 39,000 miles with a/c, on offer at . REDUCED BY £500 TO	£6,495
06	**TOYOTA Celica 1.8 VVTi.** In met blue, 68,000 miles, 1 private owner, sports coupe at	£5,995
55	**FORD Fiesta 2.0 ST.** In red with black/red half leather trim, 50,000 miles, a/c	£5,695
54	**MAZDA RX8 192PS.** In black, 60,000 miles, stylish 4-dr coupe . REDUCED BY £1000 TO	£4,995
52	**TOYOTA RAV 4 1.8 VVTi NV 3-dr.** In birch met, 43,000 miles, 2 local owners	£4,995
02	**MERCEDES C180 Elegance Auto.** In met-silver birch, 63,000 miles . REDUCED BY £500 TO	£4,995
02	**LEXUS GS300 SE Navigator.** Burgundy met, light grey leather, 75,000 miles FANTASTIC VALUE REDUCED TO	£4,695
53	**SUZUKI Jimney 02.** Black/silver soft top, 51,000 miles . REDUCED BY £300 TO	£3,695

SMALL, ECONOMICAL AND FAMILY CARS

09	**FORD Focus 1.6 Style 5-dr.** In black, 19,000 miles with sports pack and a/c	£8,995
59	**FORD Fiesta 1.25 Style 5-dr (new shape)** met blue, 500 miles only . REDUCED BY £1000 TO	£7,995
10	**CHEVROLET Aveo 1.4 LT 5-dr Auto.** In red, 4,000 miles, fantastic value at	£6,995
07	**PEUGEOT 207 1.6TD Sport Estate.** In silver, 58,000 miles, panoramic roof, low road tax diesel	£6,995
07	**RENAULT Scenic 1.6 VVTi Dynamic.** In met grey, 10,000 miles, 1 owner . REDUCED BY £500 TO	£5,995
07	**RENAULT Scenic 1.6 Dynamic Auto** In met-burgundy, superb example with only 25,000 miles	£5,995
56	**VAUXHALL Zafira 1.9 CDTi 120 Club 7 seater.** Black, economical people carrier REDUCED BY £1000 TO	£5,995
06	**TOYOTA Corolla 1.6 SR 5-dr** in silver birch met, 31,000 miles, a/c, alloys, etc	£5,995
06	**TOYOTA Yaris 1.3 T-Spirit 5-Dr Automatic.** In light met grey, 28,000 miles with A/C, alloys	£5,995
04	**VW Golf 1.9 TDi SE 3-dr** in silver, 40,000 miles, alloys, a/c, etc	£5,995
08	**FIAT Grande Punto 1.2 Dynamic 5-dr.** In black, 34,000 miles with a/c, alloys, etc	£5,695
58	**CHEVROLET Lacetti 1.6 SXi Estate Auto.** In Met Blue, 9,000 miles, under manufacturers warranty	£5,495
56	**MITSUBISHI Lancer 1.6 Elegance Automatic.** In met blue with black leather, 37,000 miles	£4,995
06	**SKODA Fabia Ambiente 16v 5-dr.** In met gold, 25,000 miles, local car with a/c etc	£4,995
06	**RENAULT Grand Scenic 1.6 Dynamique.** Silver, 46,000 miles, 7 seater . REDUCED BY £1000 TO	£4,995
06	**VAUXHALL Meriva 1.4 Life** In silver, 40,000 miles with CD, A/C etc.	£4,995
06	**VAUXHALL Astra 1.8 Life 5-Dr Automatic.** In met black, 53,000 miles, 2 owners	£4,995
06	**NISSAN Note 1.4 SE.** In electric blue, 46,000 miles, 2 owners, excellent throughout.	£4,995
06	**RENAULT Megane 1.6 Dynamique.** In black metallic, 33,000 miles with panoramic roof etc.	£4,995
06	**FORD Focus 1.6LX 5-Dr.** In met blue, 44,000 miles, ideal family hatch with a/c, cd	£4,995
57	**SMART Four Two 1.0 Passion Automatic (New Model).** In silver with cd, a/c, alloys, £30 road tax	£4,695
56	**SMART FourTwo 700 Passion Automatic Convertible.** Silver with black leather, heated seats, a/c.	£4,695
04	**PEUGEOT 307 1.6 HDi SE Estate 7-seater.** In light met green, full panoramic roof, 70,000 miles	£4,695
05	**ALFA ROMEO 147 1.6 Lusso 3-dr.** In met blue, 56,000 miles, a/c, alloys. . . . REDUCED BY £500 TO	£3,495
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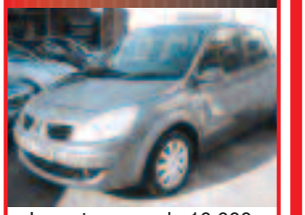
05	**CITROEN C4 1.4 SXi 5-dr.** In met-green, 58,000 miles, 1 owner with a/c, alloys. REDUCED BY £500 TO	£3,495
55	**CHEVROLET Kalos 1.4 SXi 3-Dr.** In black, 39,000 miles with a/c, CD, alloys . . . REDUCED BY £300 TO	£2,995
06	**MITSUBISHI Colt 1.2 C2i 3-dr.** Light met-blue, 1 owner, CD, e/w, c/l . REDUCED BY £1000 TO	£2,995
05	**DAEWOO Laceti 1.6 SX 5-dr.** In silver, 55,000 miles, with a/c, cd. alloys	£2,995
04	**ALFA Romeo 147 1.6 Lusso 5-dr.** In silver, italian flair + style at only	£2,995
03	**ROVER 75 1.8T Connoisseur Automatic.** In met gold, 41,000 miles, fantastic value	£2,995
02	**ROVER 75 2.0 V6 Connoisseur SE.** In light gold met with full leather trim, 48,000 miles, 1 lady owner	£2,995
54	**ROVER 45 1.6 Club** in silver, 36,000 mile example with heated seats, cd . . . . REDUCED BY £500 TO	£2,695
04	**RENAULT Clio Authentique.** In black, 73,935 miles, c/l, e/w, c/d.	£2,695
51	**FORD Focus 2.0 Ghia 4-Dr.** In met black, 75,000 miles, 1 owner example with A/C etc.	£2,695

06 Ford Focus 1.6LX 5-dr

In met blue, 44,000 miles, ideal family hatch with a/c, cd
£4,995

07 Renault Scenic 1.6 VVTi Dynamic



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End of year success for Vale Karate group

THE year has ended with a bang for Vale Karate with three weekends full of drama!

On November 21, The Welsh Bushi-Kai staged their first invitational tournament for more than a year, due to the fire at their base at Port Talbot's Afan Lido last year.

Bridgend Recreation and Leisure Centre was the venue.

A strong Vale Karate squad entered and emerged with plenty of silverware. Established squad members such as Gareth Reynolds, Kloe Christoforato and Ewan Albright all took gold medals, but there was evidence too of continuing development as many newer faces came to prominence.

Of particular note was the newly established under-10 boys team where nine-year-olds Will Hellerman, Owain Harrhy and Josh Dwyer joined Ewan to take their first title.

Ewan, already a four-time Welsh champion, had earlier won both his individual Kata and Kumite events, going home with three gold medals.

A week later on November 28, Weston-super-Mare was the venue when more than 600 competitors attended the Western Karate Union's winter invitational.

With many of Vale Karate's squad opting for a day off, medals were scarcer; nevertheless, once again Vale Karate's newer faces showed their potential.

Finnian O'Donovan, at only five years old, was The Vale's youngest entrant, and amazed everyone by winning two medals, including his first title!

Finnian, a pupil at Barry's Romilly Primary School, who celebrates his sixth birthday later this month, began training as a three-and-a-half year old in Vale Karate's 'Tigers' classes.

In Weston, Finnian entered both the 5-7 years fighting event, and the 5-7 years junior Shobu Jukúren. This is a development event, with children from 5-7 striking a stationary dummy, with judges determining a winner.

Against competitors up to two years older, Finnian demonstrated his skill by taking the gold medal. He failed by the narrowest of margins to take another gold in the Kumite, again against older children, settling for silver, with team-mate Christopher Slack taking a bronze.

Chris' medal was his second of the day as he'd earlier won a bronze in the under-8 Kata, joining team-mate Georgia Hellerman, who won silver, on the podium.

Saturday, December 4 was an eagerly-awaited day for no fewer than 15 Vale karate members, whose previous years of training culminated in the biggest test of many of their lives as they attempted to earn their black belts.

Twelve youngsters, all aged between 12 and 14 years, were attempting their junior black belts with two adults attempting their senior First Dan and one attempting Second Dan.

Chief instructor and grading examiner Rob Copeland said: "All 15 candidates were fully aware and ready for the task ahead and applied themselves admirably, with all passing with flying colours."

A footnote to this success story is that five of the new junior black belts: Lauren Beeslee, Nikita Denner, Megan Coles, Shellie May and Paige Williams all began Karate when Rob Copeland launched his after-school karate project in September 2006. Lauren was in Victoria Primary in Penarth, Nikita and Megan in St Athan and Shellie and Paige in St Nicholas.

ABOVE: Dan grading.
BELOW: Finnian O'Donovan.

For more information on Vale Karate telephone 0790 4582123, email: robert@valekarate.com or visit www.valekarate.com

BARRIVALE BRIDGE NEWS

Two members of the winning club championship teams, Jane Brook and Kay Dyer with the David Martyn Cup. The remainder of the team was Betty Lewis, Irene Thomas and Mike Close.

THE latest results from Barrivale Bridge Club are from November 30:

First, Denis Mottram and Noelle Bond 56.25 per cent; second, Alan Jones and Lyn Matthews 55.21; third, Dave Thomas and Tom Kendrick 53.75.

Vivien Liles and Hilary Laurence won on handicap.

New members are always welcome at Barrivale. *For more information, telephone 01446 733425.*

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165/70R13 Bridgestone B250	£48.00	£91	£175	165/70R13 Avon ZT5	£38.00	£75	£145	165/70R13 Nova	£32.00	£59	£115
175/70R14 Bridgestone B250	£62.00	£118	£225	175/70R14 Avon ZT5	£49.00	£95	£180	175/70R14 Nova	£35.00	£65	£120
175/65R14 Bridgestone B250	£53.00	£99	£185	175/65R14 Avon ZT5	£41.00	£79	£150	175/65R14 Nova	£37.00	£69	£130

PERFORMANCE TYRES FROM £36.55

Bridgestone	Buy 1	Buy 2	Buy 4	Avon	Buy 1	Buy 2	Buy 4		Buy 1	Buy 2	Buy 4
185/60R14 Bridgestone EP300	£58.00	£110	£205	185/60R14 Avon ZV3	£49.00	£95	£180	185/60R14 Nova	£37.00	£69	£130
185/65R14 Bridgestone B250	£69.00	£130	£250	185/65R14 Avon ZV3	£53.00	£102	£195	185/65R14 Travel	£36.00	£68	£128
185/65R15 Bridgestone EP300	£77.00	£149	£285	185/65R15 Avon ZV3	£57.00	£109	£210	185/65R15 Nova	£42.00	£79	£149
195/65R15 Bridgestone B250	£85.00	£125	£240	195/65R15 Avon ZV3	£52.00	£100	£190	195/65R15 Nova	£43.00	£80	£150

HIGH PERFORMANCE TYRES FROM £40.96

Bridgestone	Buy 1	Buy 2	Buy 4	Avon	Buy 1	Buy 2	Buy 4		Buy 1	Buy 2	Buy 4
195/50R15 Bridgestone EP300	£56.00	£105	£199	195/50R15 Avon ZV3	£49.00	£95	£180	195/50R15 Falkenay	£40.00	£75	£140
195/60R15 Bridgestone EP300	£79.00	£149	£280	195/60R15 Avon ZV5	£63.00	£120	£230	195/60R15 Federal	£47.00	£88	£169
195/65R15 Bridgestone EP300	£86.00	£125	£240	195/65R15 Avon ZV5	£54.00	£101	£195	195/65R15 Falkenay	£44.00	£82	£158
205/55R16 Bridgestone EP300	£76.00	£145	£275	205/55R16 Avon ZV5	£65.00	£125	£240	205/55R16 Federal	£58.00	£110	£210

ULTRA HIGH PERFORMANCE TYRES FROM £52.51

Bridgestone	Buy 1	Buy 2	Buy 4	Avon	Buy 1	Buy 2	Buy 4		Buy 1	Buy 2	Buy 4
205/50R16 Bridgestone EP300	£106.00	£205	£390	205/50R16 Avon ZV5	£78.00	£149	£285	205/50R16 Nova	£52.00	£99	£190
205/55R16 Bridgestone EP300	£82.00	£155	£295	205/55R16 Avon ZV5	£68.00	£129	£245	205/55R16 Nova	£54.00	£105	£199
225/45R17 Bridgestone RE050	£110.00	£210	£399	225/45R17 X.L. Avon ZV5	£90.00	£175	£335	225/45R17 Nova	£60.00	£110	£210
225/40R18 X.L. Bridgestone RE050	£140.00	£270	£530	225/40R18 X.L. Avon ZV5	£106.00	£199	£385	225/40R18 Falkenay	£54.00	£102	£199

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GEM sport

Cowbridge squash boys graduate to top flight!

COWBRIDGE Squash Club can boast a team playing at the highest level in the South Wales Squash Leagues for the first time in their 35-year history.

This has been achieved following the efforts of the Bar 44 A team in the recent campaign, which was capped with a splendid winning performance at chief rivals Rhiwbina B.

Nick Guard led the As into the final match, eight points ahead of second-placed Rhiwbina, so avoiding a comprehensive defeat would see them champions.

Team No 1 (Nick Guard) and No 5 (Niall Sloan) were chosen to start the night's quest for glory.

What a master stroke this turned out to be, with both players coming in with 3-0 victories – this meant the lead at the top of the table was now 14 points and the maximum that Rhiwbina could return from the night was also 14 points.

One more point would see the Cowbridge lads as outright champions.

Simon Payne (No 4) and Garfield Leask (no 3) knew this and they both responded with gritty 10-8 tie break victories – CHAMPIONS!

This was not enough, though, as there was a 1-4 defeat earlier in Cowbridge to avenge.

Both matches went to 2-2. Leask made sure of the match win by winning 3-2 (9-5 in the fifth) which included two more tie breaks in an epic tussle.

Payne, on the other hand, went down 2-3 in yet another trademark five-setter.

Jon Bisson (No 2) took to the court knowing the match and league title were won, but his 100 per cent record for the campaign was at stake.

The match was 'even-stevens' to 9-9 in the first when tragedy struck when Bisson tore his groin in over-stretching for a shot – he subsequently lost 9-10.

He played on for one more game losing 3-9 before deciding on a sensible retirement.

The match score was 15-9, which meant a league winning margin of 14 points and playing in South Wales Division One East B after Christmas.

The B team Bar 44, hindered by injuries and employment commitments, have not had the same success rate and went down 2-3 in their home fixture against St Mellons E.

Both Nos 4 and 5, Russ Watts and Chris Harris, found themselves way off the pace and were on the receiving end of 0-3 reverses.

Richie Ford hit some sparkling form at No 2 and delivered a very welcome 3-0 win.

Paul Reynish found himself up against the talented Hayley James and wanted to give a good account of himself following a comprehensive defeat from the diminutive St Mellons No 1 earlier in the season.

This he did with some very close scoring before finally being edged out 7-9, 10-8, 8-9, 6-9.

Colin Baxter rounded off the evening with a 'no messing' performance at No 3, winning 3-0 to provide an overall match score of 8-13.

Cowbridge C team returned to winning ways with a useful 4-1 win over Barry Leisure B. This match at The Athletic Ground saw the team debut of Ed Lowe at No 5.

While making a competitive start, taking a tie-break first 10-8, he later drifted away to lose 1-3 but no doubt benefited from the experience and will prove to be an asset to the team.

The match was soon levelled and launched into a 17-6 team win with 3-1 wins from Tony Steele (No 4) skipper Dave Matthews (No 3) and most significantly at No 1 for Colin Giles who has battled hard at the sharp end of the team all campaign.

Hugh Wallace (No 2) showed he still has what it takes with a superb 9-7, 9-6, 9-2 win.

Away win for the under-12s

A DEPLETED Cowbridge under-12s XV, with a squad of only 16 available, travelled to Porthcawl for a first-ever encounter and came away with a well-deserved win.

The first half was an excellent example of junior rugby, with both sides evenly matched. For the first 10 minutes of the game, the Porthcawl forwards provided their backs with good possession but stout defence by the Cowbridge backs, with wings Harrison Stevens and Seán Davies tackling bravely against heavier opponents, kept the home side at bay.

However, as the game settled the Cowbridge pack began to dominate the rucks, and provide their speedier backs with quick ball. Matthew Keating and Tomos Evans-Williams were able to get over the gain line on a number of occasions and provide a solid platform for their talented three-quarters.

Although coming close on a number of occasions, Cowbridge were unable to break down the Porthcawl defence and the score remained 0-0 at half-time.

Cowbridge brought on Ollie Rampling to replace Charles Archer at prop in the second half, and the Cowbridge forwards continued to get the better of their heavier opponents.

Flanker Duncan Ace was in outstanding form, both in defence with some excellent tackling, and in the rucks and mauls where he secured a continuous supply of possession for his side.

It came as no surprise when Cowbridge eventually opened the scoring. From a ruck five yards from the Porthcawl line, scrum-half Osian John forced himself over to give his side the lead, Cai Evans converted.

The rest of the game belonged entirely to Cowbridge and a fine individual try from Rhys Beynon, converted again by Cai Evans, saw the visitors complete an excellent and hard fought win by 14-0.

Good individual performances from Charlie Pegrum, Josh Jones and Harry Hopkins were key to the visitors' victory.

ML

Local athlete makes south Wales squad

A GIRL from Barry. Ysobelle Williams, is enjoying success in the recent Cardiff and Vale McCain school cross country challenges.

Ysobelle (above) is 11 years old, and is in year-7 at Bishop of Llandaff School in Cardiff. She ran in her age group – and an age group above – and in both she has maintained a place in the top 10.

She has now been selected to represent south Wales under-13s, in a team of eight and has also been selected to compete in January in the McCain's school championships in Wales.

A school spokeswoman said: "Bishop of Llandaff is very proud and excited to have a year-7 pupil represent south Wales."

Ysobelle also competes in the Arthur Llewellyn League, representing Barry Harriers, were she has been a member for four years.

She trains at Jenner Park and at school, and also takes part in local 5k charity runs to maintain fitness.

COWBRIDGE COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL SPORTS HOCKEY & NETBALL

THE year-10 netball team competed in the first round of the county tournament on Wednesday, December 8, against Cardiff High and Llantwit.

In the match against Cardiff High, the first half was extremely close with some excellent goals from the edge of the circle by Mairi Boxall keeping Cowbridge in the game at 3-3 at half-time.

In the second half, Cowbridge settled early and outstanding defence from Bethan Sloan at GK and Caitlin Allin at GD put great pressure on the Cardiff shooters.

Mairi at CA and Hannah Taylor at GS capitalised on the turnovers and secured a comfortable win.

The final score was 8-5 to Cowbridge.

After a strong win, Cowbridge then needed to beat Llantwit to win the pool and qualify for the county finals in March.

They started the game very strongly with Liz Whitehouse at C and Anna Wynne at WA sending some lovely feeds into their shooters for a 4-2 lead at half-time.

In the second half, Llantwit came out determined to improve and made a solid start, scoring the first two goals to take the score to 4-4. The final stages of the game were nail biting, with both teams making mistakes under pressure.

Cowbridge scored the next to take the score to 5-4, yet Llantwit quickly responded and the scores were level at 5-5 with just two minutes remaining!

Llantwit just had the edge in the dying seconds and managed to score a final goal and keep possession to see the game out.

The score was 6-5 to Llantwit, and Cowbridge wish them luck in the finals!

Credit must go to the Cowbridge girls who showed huge improvements in their play, possibly due to their recent Marbella tour. Player of the tournament: Mairi Boxall.

Year-9 hockey

THE year-9 hockey team had a tough match against Howells on Thursday.

The team was short due to illness and many thanks to Megan McNamee, Hannah Wood (GK) and Ellie Eddy-Williams from year-8 who stepped in at the last moment.

Cowbridge got off to a good start with a goal in the first three minutes thanks to Megan, but Howells came back very strong and the final score was 3–1 to them.

Player of the match: Izzy Eddy-Williams.

Llantwit's reserves finish on top in derby

LLANTWIT Major Reserves maintained their position as league leaders after this barnstorming display against local rivals St Athan Reserves.

The Major, playing their first game for nearly a month due to a mixture of rain, snow and ice, were keen to dust off the cobwebs and start brightly.

They got their wish and Jason Fairchild opened the scoring after just five minutes, ramming home from close range. Dom White was the provider as he selflessly squared the ball to his team mate after scything through the Tathan defence.

The home team were playing some expansive football despite the tricky underfoot conditions and were rewarded with a second goal five minutes after the opener. Stephen Phillips ran onto a through ball leaving the defence trailing in his wake.

Phillips, making his first start of the season and maybe lacking a bit of confidence, decided against shooting from a tight angle, squaring the ball to the onrushing Craig Bright who finished well.

Top scorer White joined the goal scoring party on the 20-minute mark. Some fine midfield play saw the ball arrive at Phillips' feet with his back to goal. An exquisite reverse ball saw the jet-heeled White through with just the visiting 'keeper to beat. White, no stranger to finding the net, rifled the ball home via the underside of the crossbar.

Llantwit were now in complete control of the game and following another flowing team move, Gethin Jennings was upended on the edge of the Tathan penalty area.

Jennings picked himself up to take the resulting free kick. The 'keeper produced a fine stop, only for the ball to fall to veteran player-manager Phil Grafton, who smashed home from inside the six-yard box.

Goal numbers five and six came just before the interval, the impressive Phillips the benefactor for his first goal since coming out of semi-retirement. The goal typified the big No 9s game.

Llantwit's marauding right back Morris whipped in a delicious curling ball and despite Phillips being at first thwarted, his determination saw him get to the loose ball and unleash a rasping drive that was too hot for the 'keeper.

The sixth went down as an own goal. The unfortunate 'keeper palmed the ball into his own net, trying to stop Phillips nodding in from close range.

The second period started as the first had ended, with the home side enjoying all of the possession and creating numerous chances.

Phillips bagged his brace on 50 minutes, Fairchild chipping a lovely ball into the his path. With the confidence now oozing out of him, Phillips nonchalantly lofted the ball over the 'keeper from 25 yards out.

Jennings got the goal his excellent display warranted, adding the eighth with a spellbinding curling effort from the edge of the box.

Jimbo Thomas was next to add his name to the scoresheet, with a fine finish after being fed by Bright.

Bright added his second of the game from a corner on 80 minutes. Dom White floated in a sublime cross, Bright rose at the far post to have the overworked net bulging again.

The scoring was rounded off in the last minute with what can only be described as a defensive error.

The Tathan defender looped his header over his own 'keeper despite being under no pressure.

Man of the match was awarded to Stephen Phillips, marking his fine full debut for the season.

Llantwit team: L Vincent 7, O Morris 8, D Major (captain) 8, J Grahame 8, J Thomas 8, G Jennings 8, P Grafton 8, J Fairchild 8, C Bright 8, D White 8, S Phillips 9. Subs: T Howles, D Lansdown, L Allbrighton, D Callard.

DC

First XV hoping for some action!

WITH the weather disrupting the last two fixtures, Cowbridge First XV hope that this week's game, away at Ferndale with kick-off at 2.30pm, will be on, although the signs are not promising.

Cowbridge RFC would like to thank The GEM for its coverage and also wish all GEM readers a very happy Christmas and New Year.

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